

Q

HD595

A5

1906



Cornell University Library
HD 595.A5 1906

Report on the decline in the agricultura



3 1924 013 860 360 mann

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

REPORT

ON THE

DECLINE IN THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

1881—1906.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1906.

[Cd. 3273.] Price 8d.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The under-mentioned Firms have been appointed sole Agents for the sale of Government Publications, including Parliamentary Reports and Papers, Acts of Parliament, Record Office Publications, &c., &c. (*excepting* Ordnance Maps and Geological Maps and Memoirs, and the Hydrographical Works of the Admiralty, the Journal of the Board of Agriculture, and Patent Office Publications), and all such works can be purchased from them either directly or through retail booksellers, who are entitled to a discount of 25 per cent. from the selling prices :—

IN ENGLAND :—Messrs. WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C.

IN SCOTLAND :—Messrs. OLIVER AND BOYD, Edinburgh.

IN IRELAND :—Mr. E. PONSONBY, 116 Grafton Street, Dublin.

Hydrographical Works of the Admiralty are sold by Mr. J. D. POTTER, 145, Minories, E. The Journal of the Board of Agriculture is sold by Messrs. Laughton and Co., Ltd., No. 3, Wellington Street, Strand, W.C.

Patent Office Publications are sold at the Patent Office.

The Publications of the ORDNANCE SURVEY and of the GEOLOGICAL SURVEY can be purchased from Agents in most of the chief towns in the United Kingdom, through any Bookseller, or from the Director General of the Ordnance Survey, Southampton, or, in the case of Ireland, from the Superintendent, Ordnance Survey, Dublin. In addition, Ordnance Survey Publications can be obtained through Head Post Offices in towns where there are no accredited Agents, and Small Scale Maps are, as a rule, procurable at Railway Bookstalls in England and Wales.

The following is a list of some of the more important Parliamentary and Official Publications recently issued :—

Parliamentary

Statutes—

Public General Acts, 1906. In course of issue.

Local and Personal Acts, 1906, in course of issue ; 3d. per 4 pp.

Price 1s. 2d.

Army Act—Consolidation—including amendments to 1906.

Price 3s.

Public General, Session 1905. With Index, Tables, &c. Cloth.

Price 10s.

Index to Local and Personal Acts, 1801–1899.

Index to Local and Personal Acts, 1900–1905. Each year may be purchased separately.

Price 7s. 6d. each.

Second Revised Edition. 1235–1886. XVI. Vols.

Revised Editions. Tables showing subsequent Repeals effected by Acts of Session 2 Edward VII. 1902.

Price 6d.

Statutes in Force. *Chronological Table and Index of*. 21st Edition. To the end of the Session 5 Edward VII. (1905). 2 Vols.

Price 10s. 6d.

The Statutory Rules and Orders revised. Statutory Rules and Orders, other than those of a Local, Personal, or Temporary Character, in force on December 31. 1903. Vols. I. to XIII.

Price 10s. each.

Statutory Rules and Orders other than those of a Local, Personal, or Temporary Character. With a List of the more important Statutory Orders of a Local Character arranged in classes; and an Index. Roy. 8vo. Boards. Issued in 1890 to 1904.

Price 10s. each.

Statutory Rules and Orders in force on 31st December 1903. Index to.

Price 10s.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS. Reports of the Royal Commissioners. In course of issue.

ROYAL COMMISSIONS. Evidence, in separate parts :—Canals ; Mines ; Irish Railways.

[Cd. 3040, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072.] **ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.** Royal Commission. Report, with Evidence and Appendices.

Price 15s. 7d.

[Cd. 3080, 3081.] **MOTOR CARS.** Royal Commission. Report ; with Evidence and Appendices.

Price 6s. 10d.

[Cd. 3127 to 3131.] **WAR STORES IN SOUTH AFRICA.** Royal Commission. Report ; with Evidence and Appendices.

Price 12s. 3½d.

[3174, 3176.] **TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.** Royal Commission. First Report, with Appendix.

Price 1s. 5d.

[Cd. 3183, 3184.] **CANALS AND WATERWAYS.** Royal Commission. First Report, with Evidence and Appendices.

Price 6s. 1d.

[Cd. 3202, 3203, 3204.] **POOR LAW REFORM, IRELAND.** Royal Commission. Report, with Evidence, Appendix, and Index.

Price 10s. 6d.

[Cd. 3255.] **BOARD OF EDUCATION, ENGLAND AND WALES.** Statistics, 1904–05–06.

Price 2s. 5½d.

ENDOWED CHARITIES, ENGLAND AND WALES. SEPARATE PARISHES. Reports thereon ; in course of issue.

MINES. Reports of H.M. Inspectors for 1905, with Summaries of the Statistical portion under the provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887 ; Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts, 1872–1875 ; Slate Mines (Gunpowder) Act, 1882, Districts Nos. 1 to 12.

Price 9s. 9½d.

MINES in the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man. List of, for 1905.

Price 3s. 7d.

QUARRIES Ditto. ditto. 1905.

Price 4s. 10d.

MINES ABANDONED. Plans of, List of the. Corrected to 31st December 1905

Price 1s.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

REPORT

ON THE

DECLINE IN THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

1881—1906.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

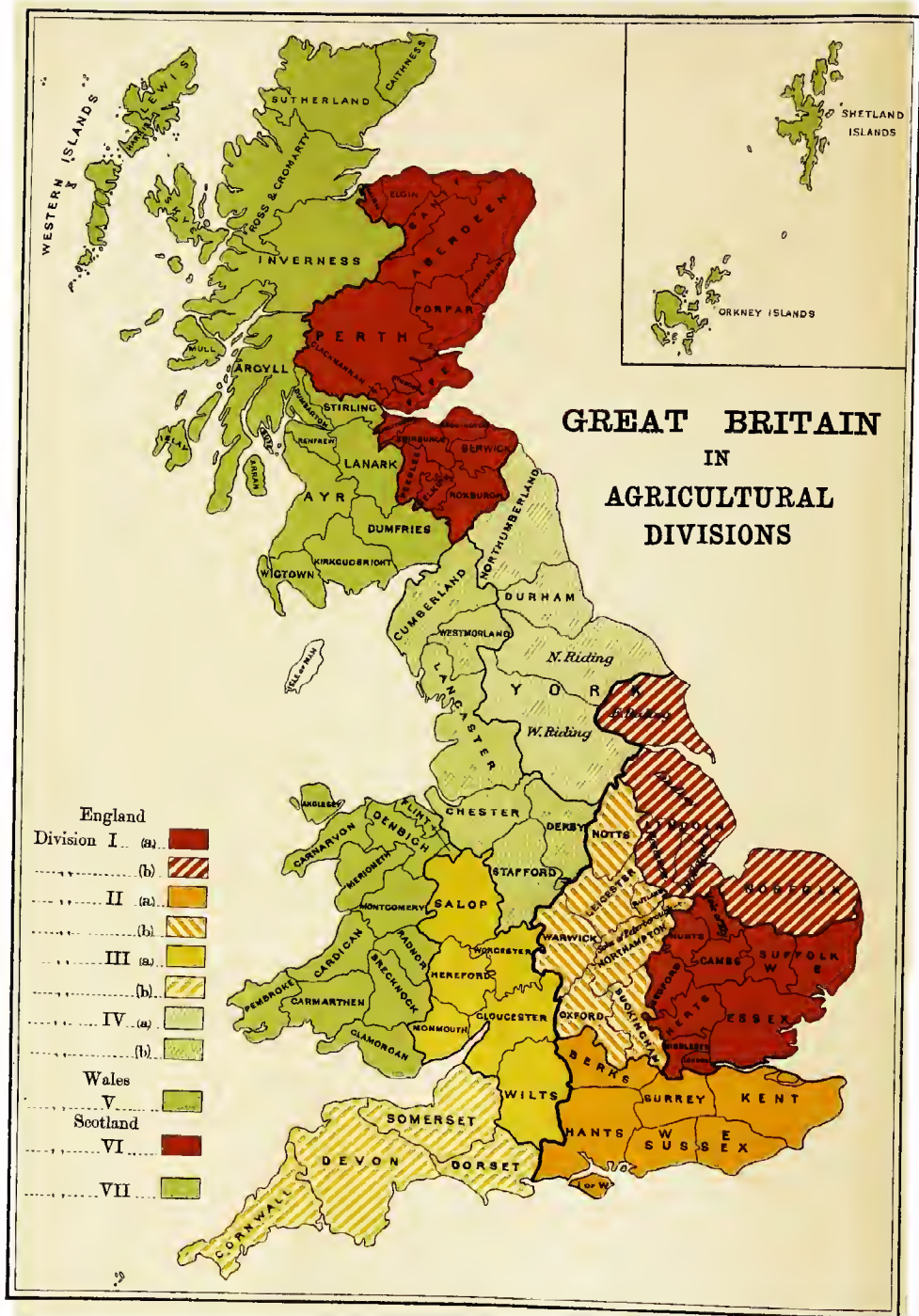


LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1906.

[Cd. 3273.] Price 8d.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

REPORT.

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES.

SIR,

THE reduction in the number of persons returned as engaged in Agriculture in Great Britain has been one of the most prominent features of the Census Returns for the past 50 years, and it has never been more apparent than in the figures for 1901, when a decline of about 20 per cent. in the number of agricultural labourers during the preceding decade was indicated. The special circumstances existing at the time when the Census of 1901 was taken probably tended to exaggerate in some degree this apparent reduction, but when all allowances are made the significance of the returns is sufficiently evident. Much public attention has been and continues to be aroused in the question of what is somewhat loosely termed "Rural Depopulation," but during the long interval which elapses between one Census and another no statistical measure is available of the intensity of the movement. In the absence of definite data there is obviously a risk that observations made under exceptional conditions or over limited areas may be put forward and accepted as characteristic of the whole country. Generalisations in regard to British Agriculture are peculiarly difficult, in view of the wide diversity of conditions prevalent in different counties, and any series of observations can therefore have little validity unless they are made on a uniform basis and at points which are distributed with some geographical regularity.

Decrease of
Agricultural
Population.

The Board, in their staff of Agricultural Correspondents, possess facilities for obtaining observations by well-qualified observers, distributed in every county of Great Britain. It appeared desirable, therefore, to take steps to elicit the views of this body of competent observers with regard to the present movement of the agricultural population and the causes which affect it. With this object, the following circular letter was issued to each of the Agricultural Correspondents of the Board in March last:—

Circular of
Enquiry.

I am directed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to call your attention to the accompanying statement showing the changes which are

recorded in the Census Returns as having occurred among the principal classes engaged in Agriculture during the 20 years 1881-1901 in the County of—

The Board desire to obtain the views of their Agricultural Correspondents as to the various causes which have contributed to the changes thus recorded.

In almost every County of Great Britain a reduction in the number of persons who have returned themselves as engaged in Agriculture has taken place during the last 20 years, and I am to ask you to be good enough to favour the Board with your opinion, based on your knowledge of the facts in your own district, and on such reliable information as you may be able to obtain, on the following points :—

1. Have the changes indicated by the Census Returns in 1901 continued in the same direction since that date?
2. What in your opinion are the immediate causes of the decline in the Agricultural population, naming them in order of importance, in your district?
3. Is there any difficulty in obtaining land either for Small Holdings or Allotments, and if so has this difficulty contributed in any degree to the decline in the Agricultural population?
4. The Census figures record the population on the 1st of April. Can you say whether the number of Labourers temporarily employed on the land at particular seasons, *e.g.*, for corn harvest, fruit-picking, hop-picking, &c, has declined to a greater or less extent than the resident labourers during the past 10 and 20 years respectively?
5. To what extent have alterations in the system of farming in your district affected the demand for labour? Has any particular agricultural industry such as fruit-farming, vegetable-growing, poultry rearing, &c., tended to check the decline in the agricultural population?

These points are intended as suggestive only, and the Board will be glad to receive the fullest details in connection with them and the subject generally that you may be able to give.

Accompanying the circular was a statement giving each Correspondent the Census figures for his particular county, as shown in Table I. of Appendix A to this Report.

Replies
received.

The total number of replies received was 248, and the names and addresses of those who furnished them are given for reference in Appendix B. The Board are indebted to those who rendered assistance for the care which they have taken to furnish well-considered replies to the enquiries addressed to them. In very many cases the replies have been prepared after consultation with, or reference to, a large number of persons able to give special information throughout the county or district in which the Correspondent resides. It has not been found possible to print the whole of the replies *in extenso*, but they have been carefully analysed and condensed in the summary which follows this Report (pp. 23-112).

The replies have been summarised under each of the five questions asked in the circular, and grouped in the divisions which have for many years been adopted for the agricultural returns. A sketch map showing these divisions is prefixed to this Report.

In a few instances the figures extracted from the Census Returns, and the changes which they indicated, did not appear to agree with the experience of particular Correspondents, and in one or two cases the accuracy of the returns was challenged. It was not always remembered that the basis of the figures being the description which each householder gives of himself and the members of his household, there must of necessity be some margin of error. More especially is this noticeable in regard to the number of farmers and graziers returned, which bears no relation to the number of persons occupying agricultural land, but represents only such as described themselves as farmers or graziers on their Census schedules, by reason of farming or grazing being their only, or principal, source of livelihood.

Of the several classes of the agricultural population specially referred to in these reports, the numbers returned in Great Britain were, in the last three Census years,* as follows:—

Class.	1881.	1891.	1901.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—).	
				1881-91.	1891-1901.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Farmers and Graziers...	279,126	277,943	277,694	—1,183	—249
Farm Bailiffs—Foremen	22,895	21,453	27,317	—1,442	+5,864
Shepherds	33,125	31,686	35,022	—1,439	+3,336
Agricultural Labourers —Farm Servants.	983,919	866,543	689,292	—117,376	—177,251

A reference to the local details given in Table I., will show that during the twenty years 1881 to 1901 farmers Farmers, graziers, bailiffs, &c.

* Certain changes in the classification adopted at different Censuses must be borne in mind in comparing the returns. Thus, the class described as "Farm Bailiffs" in 1881 and 1891 was described as "Farm Bailiffs—Foremen" in 1901, and the class "Agricultural Labourers—Farm Servants—Cottagers," in 1881, was described as "Agricultural Labourers—Farm Servants" in 1891 and 1901, while in the latter year the class was divided so as to distinguish men in charge of horses and cattle respectively.

and graziers had decreased in forty counties and increased in forty-eight counties. Farm bailiffs and foremen had increased in fifty-six counties and decreased in thirty-one; while agricultural labourers had decreased in every county except Anglesea and Flint. No very great significance is, perhaps, to be attached, for the reason already given, to the changes in the number of farmers or graziers, while the apparent increase of "Farm bailiffs" in 1901 may be attributable in some degree to the inclusion of "Foremen" with them. Some increase of the farmer class in consequence of the splitting up of large holdings into smaller is noted in Bedfordshire, Kent, Surrey, East Sussex, Lincolnshire and Inverness, and the fact that farms in many districts are stated to let more freely now than in 1901 may have tended recently to increase the number of farmers and diminish the number of farm bailiffs. On the other hand, instances are given, as in Lincoln, the East Riding, Brecon, and Aberdeen, of separate farms being grouped into a single holding and bailiffs or foremen in such cases replacing tenant farmers.

Continuance
of the
decline.

Opinions as to the continuance of the decline in agricultural labourers since 1901 differ somewhat widely, and correspondents in the same county sometimes express contrary views. In one or two counties it seems to be thought that the rate of decline has been accelerated, while in others, such as Middlesex and Ayrshire, labourers are said to be more numerous than in 1901. On the whole, however, the tenour of the majority of the reports indicates that since 1901 there has been some further reduction in the number of men employed on farms, but that the diminution is proceeding at a slower rate than during the ten or twenty years preceding that date.

Casual
labourers

The total number of persons employed at one time or another in agricultural labour is not represented by the Census returns of those who so describe themselves. At the "busy times" of the farm year—for the corn and hay harvests, for turnip thinning and hoeing, for potato-lifting, for hop-picking, for fruit-gathering, and the like—the permanent staff is inadequate, and was at one time very largely reinforced by immigrants, of whom a considerable proportion would not describe themselves as agricultural labourers. It will be seen that the attention of the correspondents was directed to the question of the extent to which such extraneous help is now utilised. From almost every county the reply is received that there is a greater reduction of casual than of permanent labour. The use of labour-saving machinery is the main cause assigned. One correspondent observes that "the use of self-binders, &c., has practically done away with at least three-fourths of the extra staff that used to be required for harvesting operations." It is noted in several counties

that the Irishmen who used to be regular visitants have now almost entirely ceased to come, though on the other hand in some counties, especially in Scotland, they still find employment.

In a few counties a maintenance, or even an increase, of the demand for casual labour is recorded as the result of the extension of fruit-growing, and the picking of green peas is also specifically mentioned in one instance as giving additional employment for a short season. In the hop counties the annual demand for "hoppers"—none of whom probably figure in the agricultural section of the Census—continues, though the reduction in the area of hops by 20,000 acres within the past twenty years must have reduced their numbers. On the whole it seems evident that if the amount of casual labour employed in various ways on the land could be calculated, it would be found that it represented in the aggregate a substantial addition to any estimate based on the Census returns, and that it has been reduced proportionately to a greater extent even than the labour of the resident agricultural class.

Whether we assume that the present rate of the decline in agricultural labour is 10 or 20 per cent. per decennium, or, as is perhaps probable, something between the two, it will be granted that its continuance is a serious economic and social fact. The monotonous repetition in tones of varying intensity of the same story by successive Census returns has so familiarised the public mind with the process that it has almost come to be accepted as a natural and inevitable course of events. It is perhaps desirable, therefore, to remember that the reductions of the past 20 or 30 years have an importance greater than those recorded previously.

Prior to, say, 1870, there was in many country districts a superfluity of labour, and there is little doubt that a considerable proportion of the agricultural labourers returned as such in the Census were only in partial employment. The elimination of these represented, therefore, a less serious withdrawal of labour from the land than the loss of an equal number at the present time, when employment all the year round is more general. In his report to the Labour Commission, Mr. W. C. Little took the year 1867 as the starting point for his investigations, and explained his reasons as follows:—"The period was a distinct epoch in the social and economic history of the rural population of this country. The enquiry (*i.e.*, the Royal Commission on the employment of children, young persons and women in agriculture, appointed in 1867) followed very closely after the passing of the Union Chargeability Act of 1865, though too soon for that Act to have had much effect in

The position since 1870.

The position since 1870. "remedying the evil results of 'close' parishes. It was immediately succeeded by the Elementary Education Act of 1870, "for which it undoubtedly paved the way. That Act for a "short time powerfully affected the agricultural labourers' "position by restricting juvenile labour and diminishing the "aggregate amount of the family earnings." These changes paved the way for the agitation of the early "seventies," when for a time capital and labour on the farm organised their forces and came into open, and in some districts bitter, conflict. From this period dates a change in the relationship of masters and men. Agricultural labour attained economic freedom, and if it did not acquire at once quite the same degree of mobility as industrial labour, it became, in the economic sense, fluid. Henceforward the old familiar semi-patriarchal relationship, under which the labourer was partly bullied and partly petted, was replaced by a more commercial spirit, and the tie between master and man became almost exclusively a "cash nexus." The use of labour-saving machinery spread from the pioneers to the main body of farmers, woman labour was largely diminished, child labour practically disappeared, and a general levelling up of the standard of efficiency pressed hardly upon the casual labourers and the "odd men" of the villages.

At this time—in the "seventies"—farming was prosperous, the value of land was at its maximum (the assessment of "lands" under Schedule A. in Great Britain, which is now £42,000,000, was then nearly £60,000,000), wheat sold at an average never below 45s. per quarter, and in the earlier years of the decade ranged between 55s. and 60s. But at the end of the decade the storm burst, and from 1879 onwards British agriculture entered upon a new era. Farmers in their struggle with adversity naturally attempted to curtail their labour bill, and became more exigent in their demands upon their men. On both sides the old easy-going attitude disappeared. Masters became more exacting, and men less amenable. Under these circumstances it might have been expected that the differences between capital and labour would have led to a renewal, with even greater intensity, of the fight over wages which characterised the early "seventies." This, however, has not been the case. Small local contests there may have been, but, generally speaking, there seems to have been on both sides a tacit understanding that no substantial or violent change in the level of farm wages was within the field of discussion. Wages have of course fluctuated, though within narrow limits, and slowly but steadily there has been all along a tendency in the direction of increase. It appears from a paper on Agricultural Wages during the past 50 Years, read before the Royal Statistical Society by Mr. Wilson Fox,* that the increase in total

* Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Vol. LXVI., 1903.

earnings per week per man, which was 11·8 per cent. in 1871-81, was only 1·3 per cent. in 1881-91, and barely exceeded 5 per cent. in the decade preceding 1901. It would appear therefore that the demand for farm labour has been restricted as the supply has declined, and that something like an equilibrium has been so far maintained. How far this will continue, and what are the influences which are tending, or may tend, to disturb it, is the question on which the reports now presented may throw some light.

It will be observed that there is a very large degree of consonance in the varying tones of the reports. The causes assigned naturally fall into two categories, viz.:—

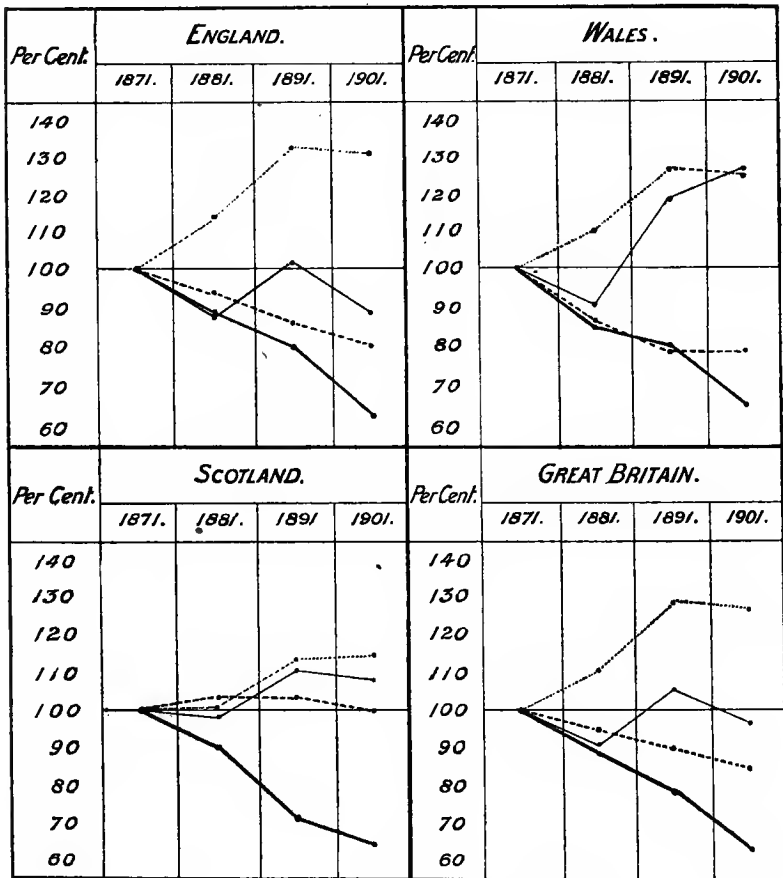
- (a) those which occasion a diminished demand; and
- (b) those which account for a reduced supply.

Correspondents differ in being more impressed by one or the other side of the question, and local conditions accentuate particular impulses, but, broadly speaking, the main features of the movement are very similar throughout the country.

Dealing first with the causes assigned for a smaller demand for labour on the farms, the compulsion put upon farmers to reduce their expenditure by reason of low prices and diminished capital is very commonly referred to. They have altered their methods of farming so far as possible with the view of economising labour. The most important change, which is referred to in the reports from practically every county from Cornwall to Caithness, is the laying down of land to grass. The loss of 2,000,000 acres of arable land in Great Britain in the twenty years 1881-1901 probably threw out of work from 60,000 to 80,000 labourers at least during that period.

It is clear, however, that the withdrawal of the plough from an extent of land as large as Hampshire and Somerset put together, has only partially accounted for the reduction of labour. Indeed, if the figures be examined in local detail—as given for each county in Tables I. and II.—it will be observed that the relation between the decrease of arable land and the diminution of labourers varies greatly. This may be illustrated graphically, as in the following diagram. Taking the Census year 1871 as a basis of comparison, and assuming that the returns for that year are represented by 100 in each case, the relative changes which have taken place in the number of labourers and the acreage of arable land are represented in percentages of the 1871 figures. Curves similarly drawn have been added to show the changes in the number of cattle and sheep respectively.

It will be seen that the thick black line representing the number of labourers takes very much the same course, though with somewhat deviating steps, in England, Wales and Scotland respectively, ending in each case at a point which indicates a reduction of about 35 per cent. from 1871. The heavy dotted curve, representing arable land, shows no such uniformity. In England it follows generally the same direction as the labourers' curve, but at a distance which tends steadily to increase; in Wales the two curves almost coincide for the first 20 years, but part company somewhat violently in the last decade. It is in Scotland, however, that the relative unimportance of the arable land curve as affecting the course of the labourers' curve is chiefly demonstrated, for while the latter

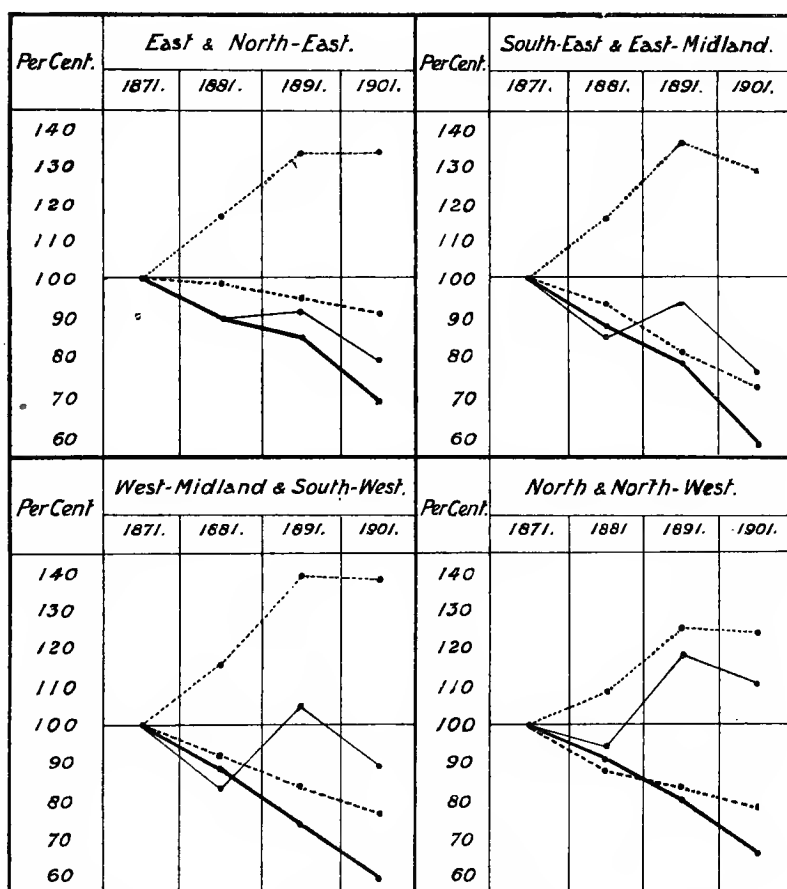


Arable Land Labourers ——— Cattle Sheep ———

takes what may be termed the normal course, the former shows that the land under the plough in Scotland increased from 1871 to 1881, and only declined during the decade 1891-1901, when the reduction of labourers somewhat slackened in speed.

The curves showing the changes in the number of cattle and sheep—which also have an influence on the demand for labour—**Stock-keeping.** are also of interest. Here again the change in Scottish agriculture, judged by these tests, has been much less than in England and Wales. The increase of sheep in Wales is noticeable, and the fact is referred to in many of the reports as connected with the reduction of arable land and affecting the demand for labour.

Even more suggestive are the divergences apparent in the **Divisional differences.** four agricultural divisions of England (*see Map*) as shown in the following diagram, which is prepared on the same basis as that preceding:—



Arable Land Labourers ——— Cattle Sheep ———

It is apparent from this brief survey of the figures that other **Other causes.** and perhaps even more powerful influences have been affecting agricultural labour than either the laying down of land to grass or the quantity of stock kept in the country. There is

Machinery.

little doubt that the saving of labour on the 15½ million acres* which in 1901 still remained under the plough was in the aggregate greater during the 20 years than on the two million acres laid down to grass. Many expedients, other than actually stopping the plough, were adopted to reduce the labour bill. But while manual labour has no doubt been economised to some extent by curtailing some of the operations which require it, the main cause of its reduction is undoubtedly the extended use of labour-saving machinery. This is referred to by the large majority of Correspondents in all parts of the country. With the exception of the self-binding harvester, which was introduced into this country in the early "eighties," few machines for the performance of a specific manual operation have perhaps been invented since 1881 (unless milking machines, shearing machines, and, perhaps, potato diggers come within that category), but whereas 20 years ago labour-saving machinery was fully employed by comparatively few, it has now become almost universal on all holdings of sufficient size to make its use practicable. The substitution of mechanical for horse or hand power for fixed machinery, *e.g.*, thrashing machines, chaff cutters, pumps, &c., has taken place largely, although it has made, comparatively speaking, little progress for tractive purposes. It may, indeed, be questioned if steam is so largely employed in the cultivation of the land as it was 20 years ago. But the displacement of manual labour arising from the greatly extended use of drills, horse-hoes, mowers, binders, manure distributors and the like must have been in the aggregate very great, and probably to this more than to any other single cause the reduced demand for farm labourers may be attributed.

It must be remembered, however, that some of the alterations in agricultural practice which have taken place during the past two or three decades have tended to check the reduction of the demand for labour. The increase by nearly half a million in the number of cows and heifers in-milk or in-calf during the past 30 years is an inadequate measure of the great extension of dairying, and particularly of milk-selling, which has taken place. The introduction of the centrifugal separator in 1879 and the great improvement which has been made in machinery and appliances for use in dairying have facilitated manual operations and enhanced the value of the produce, although not perhaps actually effecting much saving in the amount of labour required, but the daily milking of so many more cows must have had some influence in maintaining the demand for labour. Although the serious decline in the acreage under hops has, in certain districts, restricted labour, there has been some compensating increase

* In 1906 the area of arable land in Great Britain is 15,022,056 acres.

in demand by the extension of the cultivation of fruit and vegetables and "market-garden farming" generally.

Alongside the influences affecting demand, and more than keeping pace with them, has been the increasing desire of the labourers to leave the land. Most of the reports allude to this impulse, and the varying explanations offered for its existence are interesting. An absolute disinclination for work on the land on any terms is frequently noted as a characteristic of the labouring class, particularly of the younger generation, and complaints that the methods of education in the rural elementary schools foster this distaste are made in many of the reports. But while simple restlessness or mere rebellion against the conditions of their environment may induce the more active-minded youth of the countryside to seek fortune elsewhere, it is admitted generally that the higher wages and superior social advantages afforded by employment in other industries and the attractions of town life lead, in very many cases, to a deliberate and calculated abandonment of rural labour. Some correspondents allude to the fact that the higher wages of the towns do not necessarily imply an improved financial position, as the additional expense of living more than counterbalances the additional income. This is no doubt true, but it does not materially affect the position so long as the men are actually attracted by the prospect of "handling more money."

Reduced supply of labour.

Among specific causes of discontent, a deficiency of adequate or satisfactory housing accommodation is reported from about 30 counties. The details where given may be referred to, but speaking generally, there is evidence not only—or perhaps it should be said not so much—of an actual scarcity of cottages, though this is mentioned in some cases, as of a lack of cottages which satisfy the more exigent requirements of the labourers in these times, or comply with the demands of vigilant sanitary authorities. As with every other class, the rural labourers' standard of comfort has been raised, and they are not now contented with the accommodation which previous generations placidly accepted. The recognition of this fact merely states the problem without helping to its solution, which, as several correspondents admit, is extremely difficult, its initial difficulty being that rural cottages are not let at commercial rents. As a part of the labourer's wages is, in effect, now given in house rent, so the provision of more expensive and commodious cottages may be regarded as equivalent to a rise of wages, at any rate from the employer's point of view.

Cottages.

Many correspondents refer to the absence of an incentive to remain on the land and of any reasonable prospect of advancement in life, and it is mentioned that in some districts, particularly in Scotland, many of the best men have been attracted to the Colonies, where their energies may find wider

Lack of incentive.

scope and where the road to independence and a competency is broader and more easy of access. It is indeed impossible not to recognise that the ordinary career of the agricultural labourer offers little scope for ambition. If he is intelligent and quick-witted he may practically have become a master of his craft by the time he is 21, but after rising to the position of horse-keeper or shepherd, or perhaps foreman, there is little further outlook and small hope of increased wages. It is not surprising that in many cases he declines to settle down for life in a calling which does not in the ordinary course provide possibilities of advancement to an independent position.

Desire for
land.

Advancement to the man who lives by the land means in the end the occupation or the ownership of land for himself, and the presence or absence of a reasonable prospect of attaining this goal must no doubt affect the willingness of young and enterprising men to persevere in farm work. The recognition of this fact led the Board to make specific enquiry as to the existence of difficulty in obtaining land for allotments and small holdings.

Allotments.

So far as Allotments are concerned, there is a very general consensus of opinion that requirements are as a rule well satisfied. In not more than some half a dozen counties—differing as widely as Hertfordshire, the East Riding, Denbigh and Caithness—is a scarcity of available allotments mentioned. From the large majority of counties it is reported that there is no difficulty in obtaining all the allotments wanted, while in many cases it is stated that the demand for them is less than it used to be and that frequently they have been given up by labourers who at one time held them. The opinion is expressed by several correspondents that the attachment of a good garden to a labourer's cottage is more desirable and more highly appreciated by the labourer than an allotment which may be at some distance from his home. The provision of an adequate amount of garden ground attached to every labourer's cottage is advocated by many correspondents.

Small
Holdings.

On the subject of Small Holdings the reports are much more varied in tone, but they will be found to contain, not only a large amount of interesting local information, but in many cases comments and suggestions which are well worth attention.

The term "Small Holding" receives a different interpretation in different districts. In some instances it is used almost as if it were synonymous with an allotment or with occupations of not more than half a dozen acres. In other cases it is extended so as to include what in many parts of the country would be considered large farms. In Berwickshire, it is reported "there is a great demand for holdings of 100 to "200 or 300 acres, such as a man and his family can work without much hired labour, and for these higher rents are offered

"than for larger holdings of the same quality." There is said, in the same county, to be practically no demand for holdings under 100 to 150 acres. On the other hand, in Shropshire holdings of three or four acres of grass land are referred to as not being sufficiently plentiful, and in Sussex holdings of five to ten acres are said to be in request.

The definition of a small holding which is generally accepted is such an area of land as is sufficient to employ the whole labour of a man and his family and not enough to necessitate the employment of hired labour. This may be as little as five acres, or even less where intensive cultivation or market gardening is practised (especially where glass is used), while in grass or mixed farming from 40 to 60 acres may be required. The limits adopted in the Small Holdings Act, viz., land which exceeds one acre and does not exceed 50 acres, may be accepted for present purposes, the more so as statistics are available showing the number of holdings within those limits. According to the returns of this Department for 1905, the distribution of holdings in the four classes in which they are grouped for statistical purposes was as follows:—

Size of Holdings.

—	England.	Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Above 1 and not over 5 acres ...	81,232	10,342	18,685	110,259
„ 5 „ 50 „ ..	166,622	31,671	34,673	232,966
„ 50 „ 300 „ ...	109,498	18,008	23,055	150,561
„ 300 acres	14,792	408	2,718	17,918
„ Total	372,144	60,429	79,131	511,704

It must be remembered that in this classification of holdings no account is taken of mountain and heath land used for grazing, considerable tracts of which may be in many cases attached to comparatively small farms.* If this were taken into

* The extent of "rough grazings" and of cultivated land respectively is, in 1906, as follows:—

—	England.	Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Mountain and heath land used for grazing:	2,370,691	1,296,442	9,095,471	12,762,604
Area under crops and grass ...	24,600,574	2,793,142	4,873,089	32,266,755

account, the number of larger farms would be somewhat increased and that of the smaller farms proportionately reduced. Bearing this qualification in mind, it is nevertheless interesting to note the very large proportion which small holdings bear to the total number. Reduced to percentages, the figures above given compare as follows:—

—				England.	Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Above 1 and not over 5 acres	...			21·83	17·11	23·61	21·55
„ 5	„	50	„	44·77	52·41	43·82	45·53
„ 50	„	300	„	29·42	29·80	29·14	29·42
„ 300 acres	...	...	...	3·98	0·68	3·43	3·50
Total	...	...	...	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

It may be allowed that a considerable proportion, probably the majority, of holdings of five acres and less are occupied by persons whose principal avocation is not farming,* but even if the whole of this category were ignored, the existence of nearly a quarter of a million holdings of from five to 50 acres, or little short of half the total number, provides ample evidence that small holdings constitute a very important factor in the utilisation of the land in Great Britain. Their comparative prevalence in some counties and their scarcity in others appears from Table V. in the Appendix A., which shows for each county the proportion of small holdings—distinguishing one to five acres and five to 50 acres—to the total number. By placing the figures for 1895 alongside those for 1905, the changes which have occurred during the ten years are also indicated. The counties are arranged according to their relative proportion of small holdings of one to 50 acres in 1905, and it will be noted that in England the West Riding stands highest with 76 per cent., and Cumberland lowest with 52 per cent. The range is still greater in Wales and Scotland, but the extent of “rough grazings,” not included in the farm acreages, being much larger than in England the classification is more seriously affected, and the number of holdings in each group affords a proportionately less accurate indication of the actual position.

Local
differences.

Demand
for Small
Holdings.

It is apparent from these statistics alone that as the supply of small holdings varies so the demand for them is likely to be very different in different counties. As a matter of fact the reports are very diverse in their indications of a demand of this

* The occupier of a few acres of land attached to his residence, who is in no sense a farmer or dependent upon the utilisation of the land at a profit, is an inconvenient factor in these returns, and unfortunately there is no measure of the extent of his disturbing influence.

nature, and the extent to which its non-satisfaction has affected "rural depopulation." From about a score of counties, it is reported that small holdings are little in request, or at any rate that no specific instance of a desire to obtain a small holding has come under the notice of the correspondent. It is possible, of course, that an apparent absence of demand may be due, to some extent at least, to the recognition of the futility of asking for what is practically unobtainable, but at the same time there is certainly some evidence of a disinclination among those who have been brought up on the land to undertake the risks of farming. One or two instances are given of the failure of small holdings where they have been tried, as, for example, in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. Mr. Carrington Smith (Staffordshire) gives a concrete instance of personal failure. "Many good labourers," he writes, "do not make successful small holders. There is coming to me next week as a waggoner a man who worked for 12 years under the same master. With the money saved and a small legacy left to his wife he took a small holding, on which he lost what he had saved."

The majority of the correspondents, however, report that there is a demand for small holdings, which is not satisfied for reasons which many of them specify. The belief that their provision would tend to keep the population on the land is expressed in many reports. One correspondent in the East Riding puts the case succinctly:—"It is absolutely necessary that those employed in farm work shall have a prospect of rising by their own thrift and perseverance; for this purpose there should be cottages without land for the older people, cottages with gardens and allotments, and also small holdings from 10 to 50 acres." Some correspondents express doubts as to whether an increase of the rural population would in all cases result from the cutting up of farms. A Forfarshire correspondent, for instance, observes that a 400-acre farm in his district employs a farmer, his griever, and nine others, most of whom are householders. He adds:—"If this same farm were broken up into seven small holdings, each tenant would do the work of his 50 or 60 acre farm himself, or with the assistance of his family, and I hold that fewer families would be employed the one way than the other. At the same time, the advantages in favour of the small holding system are so enormous that the other side of the question should not be looked at, especially as there are few districts in Scotland so happily situated as this in the way of accommodation for farm servants on the large farm."

Deficient
supply of
Small
Holdings.

While the advantages of small holdings as an incentive to the younger and more desirable class of men to remain on the land are very generally recognised, the difficulties of providing them are forcibly referred to by many correspondents. Various obstacles are mentioned, but that which may be said

Difficulties.

Cost of equipment.

to overshadow all the rest is the cost of equipment. The difficulty, as one report says, "is not in obtaining land, but in "the cost of putting up the requisite buildings," or in another phrase, "the essential difficulty is the cost of erecting buildings "meeting the modern requirements of sanitary authorities and "the prospect of insufficient return in the shape of rent." The greatly increased outlay on the house alone, as compared with former times, is commented on.

Allusion is made by several correspondents to the fact that the rents of small holdings are high in comparison with those of medium or large farms, and the cost of equipment is referred to as one of the causes. The capital outlay involved necessarily works out at a higher sum per acre on a small area than on a large one, and except by the provision of cheaper capital or by the erection of a less durable house and buildings in the one case than in the other, it is difficult to see how this inequality can be avoided. The higher rents of small holdings are also sometimes attributable, as is frequently pointed out, to other causes, such as proximity to markets, advantages of soil and situation, as well as to the fact that the smaller the amount of working capital required, the wider is the area of competition for farms.

State assistance.

The suggestion that money should be advanced at a low rate of interest and by the assistance of the State for the equipment of small holdings or for the building of cottages is made by several correspondents. The present facilities for obtaining advances under the Lands Improvement and Settled Land Acts are specially mentioned in one instance (by Mr. Squarey), who attributes the improvement of cottage accommodation in rural districts during the last thirty years largely to the use which has been made of those statutes.

Conditions of success.

The conditions which conduce to the success of small holdings, as well also as those which lead to their failure, are indicated in many of the reports. Instances of failure, both of old-established small holdings and of some which have been recently laid out, may be found. An example of the former is given by the late Mr. Punchard, in Westmorland, where holdings of 15 to 20 acres were formerly held in connection with village industries. "With the loss of these industries, and therewith the loss of casual employment in the way of carting, &c., the small holder had no opportunity of augmenting his income, whilst the profits from the land itself also dwindled so that they were not sufficient by themselves to maintain the man and his family." Analogous cases may be found where small holdings were originally held by miners in a district where the mines have now ceased to be worked. Such examples would appear to emphasise the necessity, to which frequent reference is made, of insuring, in any attempt to establish small holdings, that the local conditions afford a reasonable chance of success. It appears generally that where small

holdings have survived, or have been successfully established, some local condition exists—whether of a rich or easily worked soil, easy accessibility to good markets, opportunities for supplementary employment or other like advantage—which seems, under present circumstances, essential to their maintenance.

Casual reference has previously been made to the effect which the extension of fruit-growing has had on the demand for labour, and in concluding this report I would direct attention to the summaries of replies to the fifth question in the Board's circular of enquiry (pp. 100-112). The general tenour of the replies on other points is not optimistic, and the picture drawn of the state of agriculture is, on the whole, somewhat gloomy. If encouragement for the future is to found anywhere, I am inclined to think that it is in the evidence furnished of the extent to which farmers have adapted themselves to the times by taking up the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, the rearing of poultry, and other industries of a so-called subsidiary character. The extension of dairy-farming, by which the home producers have met the ever-increasing requirements for milk, is perhaps the most striking example of their enterprise, but not only for the sake of retaining labour on the land, but also in the interests of agriculture generally, the evidence of the attention given to what used to be thought "small things" may be regarded as one of the hopeful facts which the present enquiry has elicited.

Conclusion

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. REW.

September 10, 1906.



SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONS.

1. Have the changes indicated by the Census Returns in 1901 continued in the same direction since that date?

ENGLAND.

DIVISION I.

(a.) *Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford, Middlesex and London.*

BEDFORD.—There is stated to have been scarcely any alteration since 1901. A tendency to subdivide holdings in the neighbourhood of Biggleswade is mentioned.

HUNTINGDON.—The agricultural population is now believed to be stationary, or possibly on the increase. There has been an increase of wages combined with shorter hours, and there is less competition for country workers in other industries.

CAMBRIDGE.—In a few villages the decrease continues, but not to the same extent as formerly. In others there is a slight tendency in the opposite direction.

DO. (ISLE OF ELY).—Practically no difference is observed.

SUFFOLK.—It is thought that such little change as has taken place has been in the same direction as prior to 1901.

ESSEX.—In the main it is considered that there has been no marked decrease in population since 1901, but Mr. Glenny and Mr. Croxan are of opinion that the decline continues.

HERTFORD.—It is thought that the decline continues.

MIDDLESEX.—Mr. De Salis writes: "For the part of the county that I know best I am satisfied that there has been no decrease in the number of persons working on the land."

(b.) *Counties of Norfolk, Lincoln and Yorks (East Riding).*

NORFOLK.—The changes since 1901 have been very slight. Mr. Tallent states that there has lately been a small increase in the supply of labour.

LINCOLN.—The general impression is that the decline in population is continuing, but not at the same rate as up to 1901. Mr. Frankish thinks that labourers may have increased since 1901.

Major Browne does not consider that the increase in farmers applies in the neighbourhood of Louth, but states that in the marsh district, near towns, small freeholds may have increased owing to the facility of disposing of milk and vegetables.

YORK (EAST RIDING).—The conditions appear to be unchanged.

DIVISION II.

(a.) *Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks and Hants.*

KENT.—It is considered that the changes indicated in 1901 still continue, except in Sheppey.

SURREY.—The number of “farmers and graziers” is thought to be increasing. Good farms are easily let and in a few cases large holdings are being split up. There is an influx of farmers from Scotland, the North of England, Devon and Somerset; these are attracted by the lower rents (considering the nearness of London) and the greater freedom of cultivation.

SUSSEX.—The decrease in agricultural labourers is believed to be still continuing, though, perhaps, not at the same rate as prior to 1901. Referring to the increase in the number of farmers Mr. Ingram writes: “Small holdings have increased and are increasing every year, owing to properties being split up for sale and large farms being divided into smaller lots for letting. A considerable number of the tenants of these holdings may be called farmers, but a very large number of owners and also some of the occupiers of such holdings, although they may describe themselves as ‘farmers,’ really do not attempt to make a living off the land. Men from the large towns, such as Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, &c., have come out into the country and are using the land more for residential purposes and pleasure than for profit.” Mr. H. W. Drewitt writes: “The number of farmers attending the markets of West Sussex has certainly declined, and has more than once been the subject of remarks to me; probably the increase is in East Sussex, which has a much larger number of small farms. It is becoming more and more the custom in West Sussex for farmers to hold several farms at the same time; in this parish thirty years ago there were thirteen farmers,—there are now three on the same area of land. Probably the number of farmers has increased slightly since 1901, as there are more farms let now than there were then.”

BERKSHIRE.—Mr. Lousley thinks that labour is more plentiful, but Mr. Adams thinks the decline has continued.

HAMPSHIRE.—Mr. Judd considers that the number of persons employed on the land has not diminished since 1901. Mr. Perkins thinks that the changes indicated in 1901 have continued.

Changes in
Agriculture
Population

(b.) *Counties of Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland, Northampton, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick.*

NOTTINGHAM.—On the whole the changes are considered to be still continuing in the same direction.

LEICESTER.—The general opinion is that little change has taken place since 1901. Mr. Longwill observes that labour of an inferior kind is more plentiful, but good all-round men are difficult to find.

RUTLAND.—Mr. Wortley forwards expressions of opinion from several farmers; the general impression is that the decline is less marked, and may have entirely stopped. According to one statement farms have been more easily let and labour has been more plentiful during the last five or six years.

NORTHAMPTON.—Mr. Rooke considers that the changes indicated in 1901 still continue, but Mr. Dickson is of a different opinion, since, trade having been less brisk, there has been less temptation to leave the land and seek employment in other industries. In the Soke of Peterborough the population is thought to have decreased very little since 1901.

BUCKINGHAM.—It is believed that the decline has continued since 1901, Mr. Treadwell considers to a greater extent, but Mr. Denchfield thinks it has been less marked during the last two years.

OXFORD.—On the whole it is thought that circumstances are about the same as in 1901, but Mr. Ashhurst thinks the decline has certainly continued.

WARWICK.—The changes indicated in 1901 continue, though not perhaps to the same extent; young smart men still leave country pursuits.

DIVISION III.

(a.) *Counties of Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Wiltshire, Monmouth and Hereford.*

SALOP.—If the decline in population has continued at all since 1901 it is less marked, and there may even have been a movement in the opposite direction. Mr. Thursfield writes: "The cottage labourers have not in my opinion decreased. More cottages have been built, and are all filled by farm labourers; farmers, however, now keep fewer indoor workmen and employ less casual labour."

Changes in
Agricultural
Population.

WORCESTER.—It is thought that the changes indicated in 1901 continue, though, probably, in a less degree.

GLOUCESTER.—The decline in labourers is thought to be continuing to a slight extent. The increase of farmers indicated in 1901 may now be less marked, as there is a tendency to amalgamate holdings with a view to saving expense.

WILTSHIRE.—While in some cases the contrary opinion is expressed, it is generally believed that the decline in population has not continued since 1901. Mr. Squarey writes: "I am led to believe that the exodus of the farm labourer has very largely been arrested. This is due, no doubt, to an increase of wages, particularly those of young men from 15 up to about 22, and to easier conditions of service generally."

MONMOUTH.—The decline in population is believed to be still continuing, though, perhaps, in a less degree, as local industrial occupations—coal, iron and tin works—have been somewhat depressed during the last four or five years.

HEREFORD.—Mr. Wootton thinks the decrease has continued to a greater extent since 1901. Mr. Turner, however, considers that labour is now a little more plentiful, and Mr. Riley also thinks that the bottom of the decline has been reached.

(b.) *Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.*

SOMERSET.—It is thought that the changes indicated in 1901 may have received a check. Mr. Parsons says: "In this district there is a better supply of labourers than there has been for several years, but they are not of such good quality."

DORSET.—The general opinion is that little or no change has taken place since 1901.

DEVON.—The decline is believed to be still continuing. Mr. Norman remarks, however, that the complaint of scarcity of labour was very much greater two or three years ago than it is at present. Mr. Oag says: "I see no real check to the decline in the population."

CORNWALL.—In three cases the reply is that the decline has continued since 1901, but in the Wadebridge and Launceston districts the contrary opinion is expressed.

DIVISION IV.

(a.) *Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York (North Riding) and York (West Riding).*

NORTHUMBERLAND.—The general opinion expressed is that the changes indicated have continued since 1901, though not to the same extent.

DURHAM.—The decline in population is thought on the whole to have been less marked since 1901. Mr. Kent, however, observes that there are no signs of any arrest or reaction.

Changes in
Agricultural
Population.

YORK (NORTH RIDING).—The changes indicated in 1901 are believed to have continued, and Mr. Walton states that an unprecedented number in that district are emigrating in families or individually.

YORK (WEST RIDING).—The decline prior to 1901 is, apparently, still continuing, but not to a marked extent. There is an increasing tendency on the part of farmers to engage boys in preference to older men.

(b.) *Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby and Stafford.*

CUMBERLAND.—The number of labourers is believed to have still further declined since 1901, though the movement is now possibly less marked.

LANCASHIRE.—The changes indicated by the last census are believed to have continued to a less extent since 1901, as the character of the farming has not altered much since that date.

CHESHIRE.—The decline is believed to have continued, but only to a slight degree.

DERBY.—While it is thought that no material change may have taken place since 1901, the tendencies then observed are believed to be still continuing.

STAFFORD.—The changes indicated in 1901 are believed to have continued. Mr. Wood, however, does not think there has been much alteration in the numbers working on the land.

WALES.

DIVISION V.

ANGLESEY.—Mr. Roberts thinks that no change has taken place other than that which has been gradually going on of late years.

BRECON.—It is thought that the changes indicated in 1901 have since continued.

CARDIGAN.—The decline in population is believed to have gone on since 1901.

**Changes in
Agricultural
Population.**

CARMARTHEN.—The decline in farm servants is believed to be continuing. Mr. Drummond, however, considers the agricultural population to be stationary.

CARNARVON.—The decline has gone on since 1901, but conditions are believed to have become more settled.

DENBIGH.—Mr. J. Roberts replies: "Yes." Mr. Gomer Roberts says: "I do not think that the increase of farmers and graziers has continued at the same rate during the last five years."

GLAMORGAN.—Mr. Forrest thinks that if any change has taken place since 1901 it has been in the nature of a further decrease. Another correspondent states that farmers have great difficulty in securing really useful hands.

MERIONETH.—No great change is indicated since 1901.

MONTGOMERY.—It is believed that the changes indicated continue in the same direction, but are not so rapid or certain as they were.

PEMBROKE.—Mr. Richards considers that a census taken now in his immediate district (Hundred of Roose) would show an increase of the agricultural labourers, and states that for the last year or so there has been an ample supply of workmen. Mr. Yorke thinks the decline in labourers has continued since 1901.

RADNOR.—It is believed that the next census will reveal a further falling off in the number of persons employed in agriculture.

SCOTLAND.

DIVISION VI.

Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Huddington, Kincardine, Kinross, Linlithgow, Midlothian, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Roxburgh and Selkirk.

ABERDEEN.—The changes indicated in 1901 are believed to have continued.

BANFF.—The decline is believed to have continued, but Mr. Livingstone thinks it has been less pronounced since 1901.

BERWICK.—Dr. Shirra Gibb considers that agricultural labourers have decreased since 1901 at about the same rate as previously.

ELGIN.—The changes have apparently continued.

FIFE.—It is considered that there has been little change in the circumstances since 1901, with the exception that there may be a slight decrease in the number of labourers.

Changes in
Agricultural
Population.

FORFAR.—Mr. Duncan and Mr. Hume consider that the changes shown in 1901 have continued, but Mr. Kydd does not consider that there has been any material change in the population of his district.

HADDINGTON.—Mr. Shields is inclined to think that while the changes have continued since 1901, the decrease in labourers has not gone on in anything like the same ratio as prior to that year. Mr. Hope also considers that the decrease is now less marked.

KINCARDINE.—The changes indicated in 1901 are believed to have continued.

KINROSS.—Mr. Tod answers that the changes have continued.

MIDLOTHIAN.—It is thought that there has been little, if any, change since 1901.

PEEBLES.—Mr. Ritchie considers that the changes have gone on at a more rapid rate. Mr. Constable on the other hand thinks that a census at the present time would show little change from the last.

PERTH.—The changes are believed to have continued in the same direction, in Mr. Craig's view to a considerably less extent than during the twenty years previous to 1901, but according to Mr. Campbell, without abatement.

ROXBURGH.—The changes indicated in 1901 are believed to have continued, but Mr. Smith thinks, to a lessened degree. He says: "I have no figures to prove this, but draw the conclusion from the supply of labour in the hiring markets, which, during the last two years especially, has been more plentiful."

SELKIRK.—There appears to be no change in the tendency to migrate from the land.

DIVISION VII.

Counties of Argyll, Ayr, Bute, Caithness, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Inverness, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Orkney, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigton.

ARGYLL.—There is general agreement that the changes indicated in 1901 have continued in very much the same way. Mr. Martin (Portaskaig), however, states: "So far as this district is concerned there has been practically no change in the numbers employed in agriculture since the date of the Census Returns in 1901, or in the previous twenty-five years."

Changes in
Agricultural
Population.

AYR.—Mr. Sloan considers that farmers and labourers have continued to decrease since 1901. Mr. Hannah, however, thinks the change has not continued in the same direction. Farm labourers have, he states, been much more plentiful during the last two years.

CAITHNESS.—It is thought there has been a continuation of the changes indicated in 1901.

DUMFRIES.—Dr. Gillespie thinks the changes have continued since the last census. Mr. Waugh holds a similar view as regards the district of Upper Annandale. Mr. Moffat is of the contrary opinion and thinks that, miners' wages having become lower, there is less inducement to leave the country.

INVERNESS.—The tendencies revealed in 1901 are apparently still manifest. Mr. Cran states that grazing farmers, shepherds, labourers and farm servants have decreased and that arable farmers have not increased. Mr. Cameron writes: "In the last five years there has been a considerable increase in the number of crofters or small farmers in Skye owing to the action of the Congested Districts Board in purchasing land which was formerly let as large farms, and subdividing this into smaller holdings, and also in advancing money to new crofters and enabling them to take and stock lands which were formerly let as sheep farms." Mr. Wilson thinks that since 1901 the agricultural population of North Uist, Harris and Barra must have increased by the wise action of the proprietors of North Uist and Harris, and the Congested Districts Board in Barra, in encouraging people to settle on the land; but in South Uist, which is at this moment the scene of a severe agrarian agitation, the agricultural population is steadily decreasing as the landless cottars cannot obtain small holdings.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—The changes have continued, but perhaps to a less marked degree.

LANARK.—Mr. Gilchrist is of opinion that the changes indicated in 1901 have continued. Mr. Scott states that no change has taken place in the condition of the agricultural population since 1901, and Mr. Speir also thinks that if any change has occurred it has been very slight.

ORKNEY.—Mr. McLennan, observing that the decrease in agricultural labourers took place between 1881 and 1891 and that there was an increase during the succeeding ten years, states that as far as he can judge the increase has not been maintained during the past three or four years.

RENFREW.—Mr. Pollock's reply is that the changes have continued in the same direction since the last census.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.—The tendency is stated to be still in the same direction.

SHETLAND.—Mr. Anderson is of opinion that the changes indicated in 1901 have not tended in the same direction since that time. Changes in
Agricultural
Population.

STIRLING.—The changes have continued in the same direction since 1901. Mr. Edmond states that the tendency is not so great as in the previous twenty years, but Mr. Drysdale observes that in his district it has been accentuated.

WIGTOWN.—Mr. McMaster thinks that the changes have not continued, but that the population in his district has remained about the same since 1901. In the Rhins or Western Division Mr. Ralston thinks there has been little, if any, decrease since 1901, cottages being fully as numerous and seemingly quite as well occupied.

2. What in your opinion are the immediate causes of the decline in the Agricultural population, naming them in order of importance, in your district ? Causes of
Decline.

ENGLAND.

DIVISION I.

(a.) *Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford, Middlesex and London.*

BEDFORD.—The decline in the agricultural population is attributed to the following causes:—

- (1) The use of labour-saving machinery.
- (2) Insufficient wages to attract the energetic;
higher wages on railways.
- (3) Lack of suitable cottages.

HUNTINGDON.—The low prices of agricultural produce have caused a very large area of the strong land to be put into grass. Then there has been a great demand in other industries for young and capable country workers. Up to 1885 a considerable number of labourers were employed in the winter months in draining the heavy clay lands, but when wheat got so low in price this was stopped and land tumbled down to grass. The brickfields round Peterborough have taken a lot of the young men; they can earn more money, are nearer the town, and get a half-holiday on Saturday. The system of education, it is maintained, causes a dislike for agriculture and a desire for the excitements of town life.

Causes of
Decline.
—

CAMBRIDGE.—The low price of agricultural produce has prevented farmers from paying the higher wages which town industries offer and has, indeed, compelled them to curtail their labour bill, and to rely more upon machinery. There is also an increasing desire for independence on the part of the labourers, and a disinclination to follow the plough. The system of education is thought to increase the dissatisfaction with country life. Mr. Jenyns considers that a better supply of cottages with suitable gardens would tend to keep the labourers on the land, but adds that the country can never compete with the towns either in the excitements afforded or the rate of wages offered.

DO. (ISLE OF ELY).—There is little evidence of decline in this part of Cambridge. Land has not gone out of cultivation and the great proportion is arable. Wheat and corn crops have diminished, but potatoes, celery and market produce, for which the land is well adapted and which require a good deal of manual labour, are largely grown, and wages have increased to a marked degree.

SUFFOLK.—The low price of produce, especially grain, has led to a rougher system of farming and the laying of land to grass. The higher wages and superior attractions of town industries also draw men from the country.

ESSEX.—Unremunerative corn land has gone out of cultivation and been laid down to pasture, therefore fewer hands are required. Wages are higher and hours shorter in urban than in rural districts, and farmers cannot afford to give higher wages. Less labour is in fact employed than the land requires for efficient cultivation. Town life presents many other attractions. The system of education makes young men dissatisfied with their surroundings, and in many cases trains them for town occupations rather than for country life. In some districts there is a lack of cottages, or the existing ones are in bad condition or without gardens. In some localities cottages would be built but for the stringency of the building laws. Mr. Rankin remarks that many farm hands live rent and rate free, while these two expenses often exceed 12s. per week in the town; consequently rural labourers may be better off with 20s. a week than they would be in the towns with 30s.

HERTFORD.—Adverse conditions have compelled tenants to give up their holdings or to employ less labour. Higher wages are given in the towns; farm work is considered monotonous, and holds out little encouragement for thrift or hope of improvement even to an energetic man. In many parts it is said to be impossible to get a man, and more especially his wife, to accept a situation which does not afford a certain amount of social life. The education of their children makes illiterate parents so proud of them that they put them to some trade or occupation other than farming. There is a lack of good cottages near to the

farms; labourers have had to walk two or three miles night and morning to and from their work, but this has been greatly remedied of late, many of the larger landlords having built very good and conveniently situated cottages.

Causes of
Decline.
—

MIDDLESEX AND LONDON.—Building operations have encroached on the agricultural land to a great extent, especially in the vicinity of London. Thus Mr. Lobjoit writes: "In 1881 there were hundreds of acres of land in Fulham cultivated by market gardeners, numbers of labourers being engaged trenching all the winter, and many more being employed during the summer at the various operations. There is probably not an acre now left in cultivation. My own firm held land in Putney and Wandsworth for many years, ultimately being 'built out' in 1904." Chiswick, again, twenty years ago was an important market gardening centre, now there is scarcely any land left under cultivation, and the same process of displacement is taking place in other parishes. Other causes noted as tending to diminish the employment of labourers are—(1) A decrease in the area of grass reserved for hay; (2) The keeping of fewer cows near London by dairy-men.

On the other hand a good deal of land formerly farmed has passed into the hands of market gardeners with the consequence of a considerable increase in the number of labourers employed. The same correspondent writes: "In one parish a small grass farm employing very little labour was converted into a market garden and now provides work for nearly 100 hands. In Hampton and Feltham there has been during the last few years quite a settlement of cultivators under glass." Mr. De Salis also says: "More and more land is being turned from farms into market gardens, and more labour is employed."

(b.) *Counties of Norfolk, Lincoln and York (East Riding).*

NORFOLK.—Owing to the low price of corn, land has been laid down to grass. Farmers are unable to pay a sufficiently high rate of wages to retain their men on the land in face of the natural disposition to leave for the towns where apparently higher wages and other attractions are offered.

LINCOLN.—Through want of capital due to the unprofitable nature of agriculture, farmers are unable to pay the high wages required and are compelled to dispense with all the labour possible; the land is less highly cultivated, only what is absolutely necessary is done, draining and ditching are neglected, arable land is laid to grass, or clover is left down for two or three years instead of one year; more machinery also is used. Separate farms are grouped into a single holding. Thus, Mr. West writes: "I can count within a radius of two miles 12 farmhouses, each of which 25 years ago contained a resident tenant and family, and all of which now are in the hands

Causes of
Decline.

of foremen or ordinary labourers." Major Browne writes: "I know cases of men farming several farms until they hold an area up to 6,000 or 7,000 acres. Generally they get the farms at a lower rent than the landlord will take from a resident tenant." Sometimes, on the other hand, large farms are divided up; the occupiers then dispense with outside help, doing most of the work themselves with the help of their families.

On the labourers' part, education creates a dissatisfaction with the dulness and monotony of farm work, with the low wages, and the lack of prospect. There is a desire to rise to a better position, and the many openings in towns afford the opportunity of doing so. Higher wages, shorter hours, better opportunities of recreation, and the other attractions of town life draw young men away from the country. Some emigrate to Canada. Major Browne writes: "A boy is kept at school until 13 or 14 years of age; he gets accustomed to a warm room and dry feet; when he comes out he does not like a cold north-easter with sleet and rain, mud over his boot-tops, and carrying out turnips to sheep."

YORK (EAST RIDING).—Mr. Pearson, referring more particularly to the district bordering on the North Riding, writes: "Most farmers now hire lads by the year, with a foreman who is in many cases too young for the post. The lads grow up careless and discontented, leaving farm work as soon as they can qualify for some other vocation. Seven have joined the Police Force lately from this part and a fair number have gone to Canada." The system of education lacks practical instruction and encouragement in farm work. There has also been, until recently, an active demand for labour in towns, and the means of communication have made migration easy. There is a lack of prospect for the labourer and in some parts more cottages are wanted.

A tendency is noted to work farms more on the Colonial system, *i.e.*, by using more machinery and taking extra farms, which are placed in charge of foremen.

DIVISION II.

(a.) *Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks and Hants.*

KENT.—A large amount of arable land has been laid down to grass, requiring less labour; the decrease of the hop area also has materially lessened the demand in hop-growing districts. Labour-saving machinery, such as steam ploughs, self-binders, &c., is now in general use. Mr. Arthur Finn writes: "A large number of men who were labourers are now small farmers. The holdings in many parishes are divided up. The large farmers used to keep a staff of men all the year round; but the small tenant of to-day does nearly all his own

work and very seldom requires or employs extra labour. Boys are not encouraged at school to take an interest in agriculture. Education makes them ambitious, and on leaving they try for places in towns in preference to farm work.

Causes of
Decline.
—

SURREY.—The decline in agricultural labourers is due to the conversion of arable to grass land. Mr. Whitley writes: "In my opinion this is being overdone, as so much hay is now made that it is no longer profitable; efficient men are difficult to get at hay time, the available extra labour being of a low order. The right policy would appear to be to keep farms in such a state that only a slight increase in labour would be required in hay time; the horse and manual labour then required could be employed in arable cultivation at other times. The difficulty of casual labour is forcing farmers to take this view, and must help to stop the continual sowing-down process."

SUSSEX.—Owing to depression a great deal of arable land has been laid to grass; some of the stiff clay land and land in out-of-the-way parts or on the hills has been allowed to go out of cultivation, and is used for sporting purposes or as the roughest pasture, employing practically no labour; farmers have been compelled to cut down expenses and have commenced with the heaviest item—the labour bill. Many small farms are now occupied by men who do most of the work themselves. Contributory causes of a different nature noticed are—The raising of the school-age limit to 14 years and the unsuitable character of the education afforded, the attraction of the towns, the better wages of railway or industrial occupations, and the dullness of rural life. Objection is taken to Sunday labour, and there is a general desire for self-improvement. On this point Mr. Haviland writes: "Our labourers, during their working years, are, generally speaking, well-paid and well-housed, and their standard of living compares very well with that of a labourer in any other trade, but there is little or no chance of advancement. As a rule all labourers, good, bad, or indifferent, are paid much the same daily wage, and an agricultural labourer's life leads to nothing more remunerative." In several districts a lack of suitable cottages is noted. Mr. Grant writes: "Cottages of any kind are scarce and dear." Mr. Chandler writes: "In Wivelsfield, a purely agricultural district, the farm labourer cannot get a cottage under 4s. 6d. per week." Mr. Brand states that new cottages cost 25 per cent. more than they did forty years ago.

The increase in bailiffs and foremen is thought to be partly due to farms remaining unlet, and partly to the fact that Sussex is becoming increasingly a residential district, many people keeping small estates of 100 or 200 acres for pleasure.

BERKSHIRE.—The low price of corn has caused land to be laid to grass, and less labour is required. Advancing wages have compelled farmers to rely more on machinery. The education

Causes of
Decline.

given is unsuitable as a preparation for work on the land, and an occupation is sought for in the towns, where there is more amusement and excitement.

HAMPSHIRE.—Large tracts have been laid to grass, employing but little labour. Mr. Perkins refers to the following among other causes of the decline: The attraction of city life, the continuous and increasing demand of urban industries, and the better wages and other enjoyments offered; the want of decent cottages. The rural homes, he remarks, are utterly insufficient in number and inefficient in character; until a cottage collapses or is condemned it is never empty. Young men and women wait until the chance of a vacant cottage occurs before getting married. Complaints about want of repair or insufficient accommodation seldom reach the owner. Mr. Perkins thinks that if the number of cottages in rural Hampshire were increased by 20 per cent. during the next ten years there would scarcely be one vacant. At least half require structural alterations and additions, and 5 per cent. ought to be condemned as unfit for habitation. The difficulty is aggravated by the letting of cottages to "week-enders," or to people who come to reside in the country, and are willing to pay a good deal more than the labourer can afford. A further demand is created by the servants of large householders who come to reside in the country. The system of education attempts too much and arouses ambitions which only townward migration seems to satisfy. Country life is complained of as dull and wanting in attractions and amusements.

(b.) *Counties of Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland, Northampton, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick.*

NOTTINGHAM.—Owing to the low price of wheat a lot of the strong clay land has been laid to grass; on good loams and easily worked corn lands there is still a good demand for labour. Farmers have been compelled, through lack of means, to cut down expenses to the lowest point. Mr. Walker writes: "Nothing like the same amount of labour is expended in keeping up the hedges, gates and fences, and the general good appearance of the farms, neither is the same amount of labour put into the land as formerly." Town life offers the labourer greater freedom and many attractions. The wages of industrial occupations are higher than farmers can afford to pay, though the difference is more apparent than real when the country labourer's house, garden, &c., are taken into account. Education is making the rising generation feel that they are too good for farm work and more fitted for the towns; they evince a dislike to engage themselves as yearly farm servants. Mr. Smith, however, states that the Notts Education Committee have given instructions for holidays to be arranged at convenient times so that boys can find agricultural employment such as turnip singling and potato picking; this, he thinks, will accustom them to work on the land.

LEICESTER.—Mr. Bassett writes: "The low price of produce has changed the character of many occupations, much land has been laid down to grass and less labour is required. Young men flock to the towns, which offer higher wages and better opportunities of self improvement and advancement." Mr. Longwill states that in some parts there is a want of good cottages.

RUTLAND.—The low price of agricultural produce has made it more difficult to pay and employ labour; arable land has been converted to pasture. The prospect of higher wages has attracted the population to the towns, while the system of education also has caused discontent with present rural conditions.

NORTHAMPTON.—The depletion of farmers' resources, due to low prices of produce and higher wages, has caused arable land to be laid down to pasture and has led to the use of labour-saving machinery. The attractions of town life, the higher wages of industrial occupations, the Saturday half-holiday, and absence of Sunday work are inducements to leave the country. Mr. Rooke observes: "Ironstone digging and brickmaking are important industries in North Northamptonshire, giving ample employment to strong and able labourers, who can earn higher wages than at agricultural work, while the more intelligent often find remunerative engagements on the railways which abound in the county."

BUCKINGHAM.—Owing to the low price of produce farmers cannot afford to employ the number of men that they once did. They are obliged to cut down expenses, and only the labour that is actually necessary is employed. Town employment offers higher wages, absence of Sunday work, and other attractions. Mr. Treadwell writes: "Our boys and girls are taught everything but what they should be to keep them in the country. As soon as they have left school the boys think that they can do better in the towns as clerks or porters, or something which does not, as they think, want much laborious work, and that they get better pay than farmers can give them; the girls have an idea too that farm work is harder than town work, where they get higher wages and more time out."

OXFORD.—In consequence of low prices farmers have cut down expenses as much as possible, and labour on an arable farm being generally the heaviest item, machinery has come more into use, or land has been laid to grass, in either case the demand for labour being lessened. Also there is not the same trouble taken to keep farms in that trim order which was aimed at when farming was more profitable. The system of education is thought to create a distaste for agricultural pursuits, and a preference is evinced for town life, where higher wages may be obtained. There is a need for better houses at moderate rents.

Causes of
Decline.
—

WARWICK.—Owing to the small returns from land many acres have been put to pasture or are neglected. Mr. Graves writes: "In my immediate neighbourhood there are six farms comprising 790 acres on which only four labourers are regularly employed." Mr. Sale writes: "Farmers do with as few men as possible. Many north country farmers have settled here, and having large families do a great deal of the work themselves. There is also a want of better and conveniently-situated cottages on many of our farms, and this often prevents men from remaining on the land." Mr. Lane writes: "The tendency amongst farmers is to reduce the wages bill by every possible means and to live like labourers themselves." The higher wages obtainable and the greater variety in life offered have attracted many to the towns, and increased educational facilities have contributed to this result.

DIVISION III.

(a.) *Counties of Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Wilts, Monmouth and Hereford.*

SALOP.—Farmers' shortness of capital has led to the laying down of arable land to grass, and consequently to the employment of fewer hands. Old and dilapidated cottages have been allowed to decay or have been pulled down, and few new ones have been built, as they do not afford an adequate return for the outlay. This cause is assigned in the Chirbury and Ellesmere districts. Mr. Thursfield, however, says: "I do not recognise the decline in my district. The houses and cottages are as fully occupied as formerly, and more are provided." Another alleged cause of the decline is the prospect of higher wages and the other allurements incident to town life.

WORCESTER.—Mr. Wheeler gives the following reasons for the decline:—

(a) The unprofitable nature of farming has led to the cutting down of labour as much as possible; farmers have no money to employ men in the winter, consequently labourers not in regular work are apt to drift away.

(b) The old custom of lodging young hands in the farmhouses has largely died out, and boys of the age of 17 to 20 having often no comfortable home get discontented and drift off to the towns in the hope of higher wages.

(c) There is to some extent a lack of free cottages (*i.e.*, cottages where the occupier is not bound to work for one employer), but this is not universal. "I often come across very fair cottages uninhabited and being allowed to fall to ruin, when a little outlay would make them better than many that are occupied in the towns. Free cottages are always more sought after than tied cottages, but on the other hand it is absolutely necessary for farmers to have some men bound to

work for them, *e.g.*, their stock men and waggoners." Mr. Wheeler considers that the only remedy for the decline lies in the paying of higher wages to the skilled men and in giving them a chance to rise in the world, but cannot see how the general run of wages can be raised until farming becomes more profitable.

Causes of
Decline.
—

GLOUCESTER.—The laying-down or "falling"-down of the heavy wheat-growing lands into pasture, and the greatly increased use of machinery on light and level lands have made a great deal of labour superfluous. The straitened circumstances of farmers, due to low prices, prevent the proper cultivation of the land, and labour is the dearest article and the one soonest dispensed with. Small farmers now employ little labour, their sons doing much of the work.

WILTSHIRE.—The low price of produce, the high cost of labour, and the advent of machinery have led to diminished employment. At the same time better education has caused a disinclination for the manual labour of the farm, milking and Sunday work being particularly objected to. The attractions of town life, the higher wages of industrial and business occupations, and the Saturday half-holiday, combined with increased travelling facilities, have contributed to the rural decline. Mr. Stevens states that bad cottage accommodation has also been a great factor, but Mr. Squarey writes: "I do not think that the character of the housing of the agricultural labourers, except in specially unfortunate and rare cases, has influenced their migration."

MONMOUTH.—More and more land is laid to grass, as corn does not pay at present prices. The young men are attracted to the mining industries in South Wales by the prospect of higher wages; nearly all the labourers left on the farms are either old or middle-aged men, or boys fresh from school. Mr. Williams writes: "Formerly the chief part of the work was done by men boarded in the farmhouses; now it is almost impossible to get men indoors on any terms at all. Fifty years ago a good man could be hired for a year at from seven to ten pounds. Such a man now, if obtainable, can get from twenty-eight to thirty pounds a year. The old men are dying out and the boys are increasingly difficult to get, so much so that a scheme has been arranged for bringing boys from London, fresh from school, into farmhouses; this has been attended with some success."

Another important cause of the decline is the absence of cottages which will compare with the new houses provided in industrial districts. Mr. Williams observes: "Men will not now live in the hovels in which their fathers brought up families; these are gradually being removed, and few new cottages are being built, so that there is a positive scarcity." "I could count up perhaps twenty of these hovels which have gone

Causes of
Decline.

down within my recollection in this district, and could count on the fingers of one hand all that have been built. Landlords are naturally reluctant to build in the face of the indefinite future of landowning generally." Commenting on the increase in shepherds, Mr. Wrigley writes: "The land that is laid to grass is not good enough to support cattle, and the stock now carried is tending more and more towards long-tailed sheep. From my own experience I should state that although there are now more sheep in Monmouth, their class is deteriorating."

HEREFORD.—Owing to the fall in prices tillage land has been laid to grass, and farmers not being so well off farm the land more carelessly and with less labour. Mr. Riley remarks: "The hedges have far less spent on them, spudding thistles, digging docks, &c., are more or less abandoned in pastures; everything seems to be done in a rougher and readier way. Hoeing is reduced to a minimum, and cultivation is certainly not so thorough as it used to be. Farmers are unable to give such high wages as are offered in the towns, and though the men are often worse off in the towns, the sound of the high gross wage tempts them. The whole tenour of modern life affects the agricultural labourer as it does other people—more amusements, better clothes, travelling facilities, and the desire to see the world. The younger labourers have little knowledge of farm work and less skill, because the bulk of them seem to take no interest in it, it is only drudgery to them. If at school they were taught that manual labour directed with intelligence is equal to any work in an office or any amount of book knowledge, they might not despise it so much." Mr. Wootton attributes the decline to the impossibility of obtaining small farms, or even cottages except attached to particular farms, and to the lack of opportunity for the labourer to improve his condition. The system of education, also, creates a preference for a non-agricultural occupation, and all the smarter boys leave the country; it is thought that quite as much has been lost in the quality as in the amount of labour.

The increase in farmers and decrease in foremen is attributed by Mr. Riley to the fact that there is a better demand for farms and less tendency for several to be let to one tenant.

(b.) *Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.*

SOMERSET.—The laying-down of land to grass and the use of machinery have lessened the demand for labour. In other ways the wages bill is kept as low as possible. Mr. Gibbons writes: "Only what is imperative is done, and our land is really being reduced to a prairie. Scarcely anything is now done to improve it; very little drainage is carried on; the use of lime has practically ceased; compost heaps are given up as so much labour is required on them; only the best and light lands are cultivated." He illustrates the altered circumstances of

farmers in the district by the case of a farm of 400 acres on which the same amount of wheat is grown now as in 1866; the difference in the value of the crop, however, is over £500. "Add to this," he says, "the lessened value of barley, wool and sheep, and the 40 per cent. increase in wages, and the deficiency is tremendous. The rent of the farm in 1866 was £600, but it was cheaper then at that sum than it is to-day at £100." With their present education boys do not care for farm work, but prefer to go to the towns and mining districts, where they get higher wages and more holidays and amusements. Sunday work is very much objected to.

As regards the decrease in farmers it is stated that farms have been left in the owners' hands or taken over by adjoining tenants.

DORSET.—The decline is due to the reduction of the area under tillage, the increased use of improved machinery, and the endeavour to cut down the outlay on labour in every possible direction. There is a tendency to subdivide large holdings owing to tenants' lack of capital; the small farmers employ far fewer men, doing much of the work themselves with the help of their sons. In many of the villages there is a lack of suitable cottages; those in outlying districts are being pulled down, as labourers will not live in out-of-the-way places. Mr. Duke writes: "On estates in my management, which are typical of the county, we have very few vacant cottages, though probably they are less overcrowded. At any rate there is no room hereabouts in the country districts for more inhabitants without building, and I doubt if private individuals will be found to embark in building cottages to let them at the low rates prevailing." The system of education has caused a lack of interest in agriculture, and there are easy means of communication with the towns, where higher wages and other attractions are offered.

DEVON.—The low price of corn has sent land out of cultivation, and owing to lack of means farmers cannot afford to keep so many men or give them such high wages as they can get in towns. No prospect is held out to the labourer to attain a better position; in some cases there is a lack of comfortable dwellings. The system of education is deemed unsuitable, and town life, with its absence of Sunday work and opportunities of enjoyment, exercises a great attraction.

CORNWALL.—Owing to the low price of cereals a great extent of arable land has been laid down to pasture; this together with the increased use of improved machinery has done away with the necessity for a great deal of labour. With a higher rate of wages and less means to pay farmers take every opportunity to reduce the outlay on this item. On the part of the labourer other causes have operated. His education is not directed towards rural pursuits, to which, on the contrary, there is

Causes of
Decline.

increasing objection on account of the long hours and the small opportunities for leisure. Employment in the towns, mines, and factories is better paid and, though the cost of living may be higher, town life presents many attractions in comparison with the rural districts. Good cottages are wanted, but the stringency of the byelaws tends to prevent more being built. Better openings for labour exist in Canada, the United States, and elsewhere, and many young men have been induced to emigrate by friends who have done well there in mining and farming.

DIVISION IV.

(a.) *Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York (North Riding) and York (West Riding).*

NORTHUMBERLAND.—Owing to the low price of corn tillage land has been laid to grass, and consequently less labour is required. Mr. Nichol writes: "Several farms in this neighbourhood which used to keep seven or eight pairs of horses working now have none, and instead of upwards of twenty hands now employ a couple of men." At the same time wages have increased so that farmers cannot afford to employ the same amount of labour as formerly. Mr. Nichol adds that in his case wages have increased 20 per cent. in the last fifteen years. More and better machinery is now used. Again, the present system of education does not fit the rural population for work as farm labourers, who are attracted to urban districts by the prospect of higher wages and other advantages. The absorption of land for building also displaces agriculture; this process, it is stated, is going on in the whole of the Tyne Valley west of Newcastle and east of Hexham.

DURHAM.—There is a lessened demand for labour owing to the laying of land to grass, the increased use of machinery, and the general endeavour to economise in view of the low price of produce and the high rate of wages. Many men now taking farms have large families and are able to do without hired labour. On other farms, where eight or ten men used to be kept, only a shepherd and perhaps a boy are now employed. Mr. Kent writes: "Less time is spent in tilling and cleaning the land, and a small dressing of artificial manure takes the place of a more thorough cultivation and is found cheaper than a heavy labour bill." In some districts there is a want of good houses. The character of the elementary education unfits boys for work on the land; they are attracted to the towns, iron works, and coal mines, thinking to improve their conditions of life; the facility with which this better-paid employment can be obtained keeps agricultural wages in Durham at a very high level.

YORK (NORTH RIDING).—Owing to smallness of profits and, amongst other things, the burden of heavy rating, farmers have

been compelled to economise in their outlay on labour. The custom of boarding single men in the farmhouses and the difficulties which married labourers experience in obtaining a settlement on the land appear to have contributed to the decline; this is referred to more fully under Question III. (*see p. 73*).

Causes of
Decline.
—

YORK (WEST RIDING).—The low price of farm produce combined with advancing wages has made it necessary for farmers to employ the least possible amount of labour. Repairs and improvements are greatly neglected, and the productiveness of the land is in consequence impaired. Strong arable land which under the plough employed more labour than the lighter land, has been laid down to grass. Machinery also is more extensively used. On the other hand the dulness of country life and the necessity for the agriculturist to work seven days a week have caused many to seek employment in the towns, where shorter hours, higher wages, and more leisure and amusements can be obtained.

(h.) Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby and Stafford.

CUMBERLAND.—The chief cause of the decline has been the conversion of arable land into pasture with a view to reducing the labour bill. Mr. Dobson writes: "Beyond oats and turnips, arable cultivation has sunk to a minimum hereabouts. As much land is kept in grass as is possible, and with the aid of larger quantities of cake for feeding, as well as of slag and kainit for top-dressing grass, cattle and sheep are reared with the minimum of ploughed land. While considerable areas of oats and turnips are grown this is accomplished with much less hired labour, in many cases the farmer's family themselves working a considerable-sized farm. Corn stubble used to be ploughed repeatedly in preparation for roots; this is now done almost entirely by 'spring-tooth' cultivators, thus economising team labour." In other ways, also, labour is dispensed with by the use of improved machinery. Again, the higher rate of wages offered in towns, quarries, mines, iron works, &c., together with shorter hours, Saturday half-holiday, and absence of Sunday work, induce the stronger class of labourers to leave the farms, while the opportunities in the Colonies, particularly Canada, attract some of the best men. Old cottages are in many cases allowed to decay, and the increased cost of building and possibly also the requirements of the present building bye-laws are a hindrance to the erection of new ones.

WESTMORLAND.—Mr. Punchard attributes the decrease in the number of occupiers of land to the giving up of accommodation fields formerly let to professional men and tradesmen, and to the tendency to abolish small farms. He writes: "The reduction in the number of agricultural labourers and farm servants is attributable to the smaller demand for them, arising chiefly

Causes of
Decline.

from the rise in wages on the one hand and the diminished return from the cultivation of land on the other. Less land is cultivated than formerly, and the farmer has been compelled to reduce his labour bill. The lower range of prices of all kinds of produce, coupled with the increase of local rates, have made the profits from farming so small that the labour bill has had to be cut down and machinery and mechanical implements substituted. The decay of the village industries has also resulted in there being fewer chances for the agricultural labourer to find employment when his assistance on the farms was not required." Higher wages in the towns, together with shorter hours, and more amusements have also attracted men from the rural districts.

LANCASHIRE.—The principal causes enumerated are as follows:—

(1) The inability of many farmers, owing to the depressed state of agriculture, to employ as many men as they would like to do, or to pay sufficiently high wages.

(2) The laying of arable land to grass, due to the same cause.

(3) The greater use made of up-to-date labour-saving machinery.

(4) The growing distaste for the work of an agricultural labourer on the part of the now better educated children of the labouring class.

(5) The inducement to go to the towns for the sake of the higher wages, the shorter hours, Saturday afternoon holiday, and better means of recreation and education.

(6) In some parishes, the scarcity of cottages.

(7) The taking of agricultural land for building purposes.

(8) Emigration.

On the last point Mr. Nuttall writes: "The extremely favourable offers made by our Colonies, particularly Canada, whose agents are constantly pointing out the advantages of absolute security for the expenditure of money and labour by an easy and cheap system of purchase, are attracting some of our best and youngest men."

CHESHIRE.—Through the unprofitableness of agriculture farmers have been forced to reduce the number of labourers employed to the lowest possible point; work on the farm is now done in a more rough and ready way; the substitution of machinery and the putting of tillage land to pasture have also lessened the number of men required. The social attractions of the towns, the better opportunities of advancement, and the higher wages of industrial occupations cause many of the best men to leave the country. The extension of the residential area has had an indirect as well as a direct effect on the numbers engaged in agriculture, by creating a demand for gardeners, grooms, &c.

DERBY.—Mr. Waite writes that a majority of farmers now live, work, and dress like labourers, and are either barely holding their own or slowly losing their capital. Corn growing does not pay, but is only practised for the sake of the straw and as a change crop for roots. Farms are smaller, so that there are more farmers, but they dispense with or employ fewer regular labourers, doing as much as they can and leaving the rest undone, to the detriment of the land; drains are unattended to, fences are dying and being replaced by barbed wire. At the same time cheap newspapers and education have taught the labourers to try to earn a living with more personal liberty; they are dissatisfied with the Sunday labour, the absence of Saturday half-holiday, and the relatively long hours of farm work.

Causes of
Decline.
—

STAFFORD.—In the first place less labour is now required owing to the laying of land to grass and the use of improved machinery; secondly, a great proportion of tenant farmers have come from the better class of farm labourers and do most of the work with their own families. On this point Mr. Carrington Smith writes: "Many members of the families of dairy farmers do not find their way into the classes named in the schedule. As a matter of fact, sons and daughters of men classed as farmers and graziers are often actually doing the work of farm servants."

Again, owing to low prices and consequent lack of means only such work as is absolutely necessary is done, the rest is left undone. The attractions of the towns and the prospect of higher wages are an additional cause of the migration.

WALES.

DIVISION V.

ANGLESEY.—Mr. Nicholls Jones observes that a large number of holdings have been turned into grazing farms, the tenants having ceased to occupy them as homesteads, and the land in many instances being let off by auction to the highest bidder; in consequence of this, there is a decline in the number of labourers employed. The decline is further attributed to the low price of stock and grain and the high price of labour, owing to the demand at the slate quarries in Carnarvonshire, on the railways, and in the South Wales coal mines. The system of education is also thought to create a distaste for agriculture.

BRECON.—Mr. Price attributes the decline in the agricultural population to the following causes:—

(a) A reduction in the demand for labour due to the laying of arable land to pasture and the great extension of sheep farming, as well as to the use of improved machinery.

Causes of
Decline.

(b) The want of proper cottages on the larger farms in the country districts. "Hundreds have been allowed to tumble down in this and adjoining counties, the result being the removal of the people to the villages and towns, where they lose their interest in country life."

(c) The consolidation of small farms. "The buildings on most of these combined farms have fallen down, with the exception of one homestead, whereas many years ago they were all inhabited and families were brought up, most of whom were engaged as servants and labourers in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes."

(d) The prosperous condition of the mining districts, the better wages, and the shorter hours of work.

CARDIGAN.—Mr. Jones assigns the following reasons for the decline:—

(1) The unprofitableness of farming is causing many farmers and farmers' sons to seek some other occupation.

(2) Landlords have a tendency to group their farms to save the cost of erecting new buildings.

(3) Every farmer endeavours to obtain modern machinery for cultivating and harvesting, and in other ways to curtail the labour bill as much as possible.

(4) Many labourers are attracted to the coal mines which are within 50 to 60 miles; there they receive better wages than the agriculturist can afford to pay, and at the same time have more leisure. Educational facilities have encouraged this inclination for work in the towns.

Mr. Edwards, also, attributes the decline to the high wages and greater freedom of the industrial centres of South Wales, which are within easy distance of the county.

CARMARTHEN.—The low price of agricultural produce, the increase of grazing, and especially sheep farming, have lessened the demand for labour. The high rate of wages in adjacent industrial districts with the shorter hours and greater means of amusement have attracted some of the best of the rural population. The system of education is thought to be at fault. On this point Mr. Rees writes: "How rare are the schools in which nature study has been patiently and regularly taught to children. But I am glad to say that there are signs of improvement in this direction. Thus, hitherto no taste for the natural open-air life of the farm has been impressed on the plastic mind of the child. The boys prefer to take up teaching work at the school or to become shop assistants, railway clerks, or porters, &c. The girls will become milliners, post-office clerks, dressmakers,—anything almost in preference to domestic service."

CARNARVON.—The increase in shepherds is an indication of the change taking place throughout the county in the extension of sheep rearing. This extension is due to the fall in the price of cereals and has lessened the demand for labour. At the same time a preference is shown by the labourers for work on railways, in quarries, &c., where better wages are paid. There is a difficulty in getting suitable cottages at a rent that a man getting 18s. per week can afford to pay.

DENBIGH.—The causes assigned for the decline are:—

- (1) Lack of cottage accommodation and neglect of existing cottages.
- (2) Conversion of arable land to pasture, and increase of stock rearing.
- (3) Poorer land on hillsides going out of cultivation.
- (4) More extensive use of machinery.
- (5) The lack of small holdings.
- (6) The game laws.

Mr. John Roberts says: "The insecurity of tenure prevents any tenant employing his capital in developing his farm, thus diminishing the need of labour. Many examples of this have happened in recent years."

GLAMORGAN.—Mr. Forrest considers that the main cause of the decline is dissatisfaction with rural conditions as compared with the attractions of town life and its apparent increase in wages. He thinks that education in village schools is faulty in that so little instruction is given in the way of technical agricultural and allied subjects. The low price of produce, also, has led to the laying down of a large area of permanent pasture, which requires less labour. The increased cost of labour compels many farmers to leave work that they ought to do, such as repairing, laying, and trimming hedges, banking, &c.; the result in many cases being an increasingly heavy expenditure on the part of the landlord. The increase of machinery has enabled many large farmers to get on with less labour, and even the provision of up-to-date buildings tends to lessen the amount of labour required to work a farm. It is also observed that able men can earn 6s. to 7s. per day at the collieries—a wage which the farmer is, of course, unable to pay.

MERIONETH.—Mr. Wynne attributes the diminution in labourers to the social attractions of the towns, the shorter hours of employment, and the apparently higher wages.

MONTGOMERY.—The decrease in farmers and graziers may be partly accounted for by the displacement of occupiers from a considerable area drawn upon by the Liverpool Corporation for the purpose of water supply; partly also it is due to the merging together of holdings, but it is stated that little of this has taken place recently.

Causes of
Decline.

PEMBROKE.—Commenting on the increase of farmers and graziers between 1881 and 1901, Mr. Richards observes: "The Census figures indicate that many farmers holding two or more farms in 1881 had given up one or more of their plurality of holdings in 1901, which I do not think can have been the case generally, at least in my own neighbourhood, and to the extent represented, as it would indicate a considerable addition to the class of farmers and graziers from outside their ranks. I would rather suggest that the increase is due to many who occupied small holdings and at the same time worked as agricultural labourers, having classed themselves as labourers in 1881 and as farmers and graziers in 1901." The reason he assigns is that up to the eighties very many men who occupied a few acres of land in the northern part of the county and were casual agricultural labourers as well, used to come down to the southern and earlier districts for the corn harvest. With the advent of improved machinery farmers did not require this extra help and the men ceased to offer themselves, and making their own holdings their chief source of livelihood now class themselves as farmers.

Such a difference in classification would also be a partial explanation of the decline in labourers. Other causes assigned are:—

(1) The higher wages in the mining and manufacturing districts of Glamorganshire, together with railway facilities for travelling thither and the readiness with which employment can be obtained.

(2) The introduction of improved machinery for mowing, reaping, binding, threshing, and other operations.

(3) Insufficient cottage accommodation.

(4) The system of education, which fits the children rather for work as clerks, shop assistants, &c.

(5) The reduction of profits in farming.

On the third point Mr. Richards writes: "The old cottages are tumbling down without being replaced. Within a radius of two miles from here and about as many from the nearest villages, there are farms of about 300 acres with only one cottage on each, when there ought to be three or four; and nine farms of from 100 to 200 acres each on which there is no cottage at all. In my own small parish of 1,450 acres, eleven cottages have fallen into ruins within the last forty years, and only four new ones have been built, and a barn converted into a cottage."

RADNOR.—Mr. Lewis considers that the decline is principally due to the merging of farms. He writes: "Landlords repeatedly, when a small farm becomes vacant, rent it with the adjoining farm, although there are numerous applicants, the reason being that they save the upkeep of house and buildings,

which, in many instances, are allowed to go to ruin. This is especially true when estates are entailed. There are instances where the same man has three farms where formerly three families were nursed, now one man manages or mismanages the lot; there are numbers of instances of two farms joined together, in the majority of the cases to the detriment of the farms and the neighbourhood; fewer men are employed than would be if each farm were a separate holding; the result is fences are neglected, tillage land is not cleaned properly, and the whole of the land suffers." He urges the necessity of altering the law of entail and preventing men who have only a life interest in the estate managing it for their own personal benefit. "One large estate in this county," he writes, "is in liquidation and has been for years, and, of course, in the interest of the creditors very little capital is expended on it; if the tenant farmers had an opportunity of becoming the owners on such estates, it would be for the benefit of all concerned."

Causes of
Decline.
—

SCOTLAND.

DIVISION VI.

Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Kincardine, Kinross, Linlithgow, Midlothian, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Roxburgh and Selkirk.

ABERDEEN.—The decline is attributed to the following causes:—

- (1) The introduction and improvement of machinery.
- (2) The absorption of smaller holdings.
- (3) Emigration, especially to Canada.
- (4) The attractions of town life and its educational advantages.
- (5) The existence of other more attractive fields of employment.

BANFF.—The principal reason of the decline is stated to be the attraction of the towns compared with the quietness of country life. Mr. Bruce observes: "We require a good reading-room with a well-conducted place of amusement in every other village, which could be made almost self-supporting." Mr. Livingstone states that many have left his district owing to the non-renewal of houses and cottages on crofts. These are joined on to adjacent holdings, the excuse being that the owners cannot afford to put up houses for the rent they get.

Causes of
Decline.

BERWICK.—Dr. Shirra Gibb writes: "The outstanding cause of the decline is the low price of tillage farm produce; less land is now under corn and root crops and fewer hands are required. The unremunerative results of cropping in high-lying districts and on retentive clays, where excessive labour is required, have prevented the farmer from being able to pay wages sufficiently high to compete, in the opinion of the labourer, with the higher wages and greater social inducements of town life or the prospects afforded by emigration. The education given in rural schools does not tend to encourage the desire for a country life, or especially fit the scholars for it."

Mr. Somervail considers that the exodus from the rural districts occasioned a scarcity of labour and raised wages to a rate which farmers were unable to pay in view of the low price of farm produce. They have, therefore, reduced the number of their hands, and keep some of their fields longer in grass, and also employ casual Irish labourers.

ELGIN.—The decline is held to be due to the general advance of education and to the higher wages and social attractions of town life.

FIFE.—The causes of the decline are stated to be—

(1) The low price of agricultural produce, combined with higher wages, occasioning the laying of land to grass, and a general reduction of expenditure.

(2) The use of labour-saving machinery, especially during harvest.

FORFAR.—Mr. Kydd writes: "I put down the decrease in the numbers employed to the want, in some districts, of improved housing, and to the greater use of improved labour-saving machinery, this becoming cheaper and less complicated every year. In my own immediate district the numbers will not have decreased so much as in other parts of the county, the most of the land being on Lord Dalhousie's Panmure estates, where the labourers' cottages are excellent and of a most improved class. Then more land is being laid down to grass, although this is certainly not the case in this district of the county."

Other causes of the decline are: The abolition of small holdings and crofts; the want of security for the occupiers' capital; the superior attractiveness of town life (this, in Mr. Hume's view, being the principal cause); and emigration. "Modern education," says Mr. Hume, "has the inevitable tendency of leading the rural population to be discontented with the monotony of country life; and the cities with their numerous amusements and bustle will have an ever-increasing charm for the better-educated of the rural dwellers. Then emigration, especially to Canada, is taking large numbers of the very best of our agricultural labourers. The consequence

is that ploughmen and labourers are not only getting fewer in number, but are also failing to maintain the high standard of physical development that used to characterise them."

Causes of
Decline.

HADDINGTON.—(1) The low price of produce has compelled farmers to work at the least possible expense, consequently the labour bill has been reduced. Mr. Shields writes: "Since the eighties, draining, ditching, and drystone dyke building are all but defunct trades; the dykes lie in their tumble-down state faced with one or two lines of barbed wire. Draining has become so expensive, alike for cutting and tiles, that it costs about as much to drain medium land as to buy it."

(2) Inferior land has been laid down to grass.

(3) The introduction of labour-saving machinery, notably binders, has lessened the need for manual labour. Mr. Shields writes in this connection: "In the better tillage districts rented at, say, from 25s. to 45s. per acre, the new labour-saving implements and machinery are indispensable. Binders have revolutionised harvest work; the combined 'double drill plough and manure sower' is a good second to the binder, especially in districts where there is a large area of drilled green crops. Then there is improved threshing machinery, portable or fixed; in the latter case the oil engine is largely used, which practically saves the man in attendance, and if the mill is fitted with self-feeder, trusser, and chaff-blower another three or four hands can easily be dispensed with."

(4) The wages question, Mr. Shields observes, has also caused a number of men to take up work in the towns or in the coal and shale industries, but of recent years, farm hands have been getting better wages, and the trend is now rather to the country owing to dull trade and the appreciation of the ploughman's perquisites—free house and garden, no taxes or rates, extra harvest and potato money—which bring his regular weekly wage of 17s. or 19s. to a money value of quite 22s. to 24s. per week. Mr. Hope writes in the same sense.

KINCARDINE.—The principal causes of the decline are stated to be:—

(1) The endeavour on the part of farmers, prompted by lack of means, to save labour in every possible way.

(2) The improvement of machinery.

(3) A want of improved cottages for farm labourers.

(4) A tendency on the part of proprietors to add the small holdings to the large farms in order to save the expense of rebuilding houses and steadings.

(5) A desire on the part of the rural population for employment offering more freedom and better wages. The system of education is not calculated to promote agricultural instincts, but tends to divert the youthful population to other channels.

Causes of
Decline.

KINROSS.—Mr. Tod writes: "From the agriculturist's standpoint the principal cause of the decline in the agricultural population is the laying down of land to pasture, and this the farmer has to submit to on account of the low price of grain and the high price of labour. From the labourer's standpoint, the men being within reach of coal pits prefer the high wages at the mines. Many of our best ploughmen seek this employment. In fact, in the morning and evening trains, whole carriages are occupied by men going to and from their work in the various villages of the county. The women will hardly work in the fields now; they prefer house places, and many prefer the town, where they have evening entertainments and greater social advantages."

LINLITHGOW.—Mr. Glendinning writes: "It is significant that the decline, with the single exception of shepherds, is entirely in the first decade—between 1881 and 1891; and this can be accounted for by the fact that in the early part of that decade it became evident that the low level to which prices of agricultural produce had come down, was to become permanent and not to be regarded as an adverse fluctuation. Accordingly, the upland and secondary soils were laid down to grass, where bailiffs would give place to shepherds." The growing use of labour-saving machinery has also had some effect on the numbers employed.

MIDLOTHIAN.—Mr. Davidson thinks that the principal cause of the decrease from 1881 to 1891 was that, owing to the decline in the value of produce, a considerable area of secondary land was laid down to grass or worked on a longer rotation. During the succeeding ten years the extension of the boundaries of the city of Edinburgh absorbed a good many suburban farms. Mr. Gemmell also gives instances of land being diverted from agricultural purposes in the vicinity of Edinburgh. Mr. McHutchen-Dobbie writes: "Most of the young men try for other employments. From my own farms there are one jailwarder, two railway-engine stokers, two signalmen, one railway porter, one grocer, one ironmonger and one policeman. These are first-class men born on my farms. It is said the half-holiday is an inducement, but the hours of the above men are longer than those of their fathers as ploughmen. The paper and carpet mills are also strong competitors for the women workers."

PEEBLES.—The decline is attributed to imports of agricultural produce, to the present system of education in rural schools, and the age up to which children are kept at school, and to a lack of cottages. Mr. Ritchie writes: "Cottages where families have been reared for generations are allowed to go to ruins, no new ones are built, and thus population decreases. Rents of cottages, owing to the expense of building and supplying sanitary necessities, are too high for a working man. Whole families drift to Peebles, Inverleithan, and

Walkerburn to the tweed mills, where they make good wages and have the evenings to themselves." Mr. Ritchie adds that Canada attracts many of the best among the young men.

Causes of
Decline.

PERTH.—The decline in the agricultural population is thus accounted for by Mr. Craig:—

(1) Land which is below average quality or is difficult to work or inconveniently situated cannot, at present prices of farm produce, be cultivated to advantage, and is consequently laid down to grass. "Hill farmers who used to cultivate sufficient land to supply their own wants now find it as cheap to buy in grain and other feeding stuffs, so there is now more pasture on almost all farms, and on high-lying lands and poor soils there is practically no cultivation at all."

(2) The increased prosperity of the towns, the great advance in wages there, and the social advantages of town life, have attracted not only the surplus agricultural population, but a good deal of labour that is badly wanted in the country. "Large numbers of the relatives and friends of country people have risen to good positions in towns, whilst they, working, as they imagine, much harder and under less desirable conditions, have only been able to exist. Every opportunity for employment in town is, therefore, eagerly taken advantage of. This continual looking to town life for something better than what they are at present employed at has begotten a spirit of unrest amongst farmers' sons and farm labourers which does not augur well for their continued settlement in the country."

The system of education and the ease and cheapness of communication between town and country foster this spirit of discontent with the present conditions of country life and encourage the desire for office and mercantile pursuits.

(3) The Colonies, also, are attracting many of the best among the farmers' sons and farm labourers.

Mr. Campbell and Mr. McDiarmid state that the formation of new deer forests is partly responsible for the decline. Mr. McDiarmid says that this is the principal cause in his district.

Mr. Hutcheson attributes the decrease partly to the use of machinery, while Mr. Campbell states that there is a want of proper housing accommodation.

ROXBURGH.—The causes assigned for the decrease are:—

(1) The lessening of the area of land under cultivation owing to the low price of grain.

Mr. Smith writes: "More land would have been laid to grass had it not been necessary to grow turnips for wintering the large stocks of half-bred ewes which are the mainstay of the high-lying arable farms in this country." Mr. Caverhill corroborates this statement. "The reduction of labour," adds Mr. Smith, "operated first on those ploughmen who could not

Causes of
Decline.

supply women workers, with the result that the young married men, who were probably the more efficient, were forced to seek employment elsewhere."

(2) A want of cottage accommodation on some farms.

(3) The use of improved machinery.

(4) Higher wages in towns and facilities for railway travelling. Mr. Smith says: "The attraction of the big wages given in the woollen mills at Hawick and Galashiels drew whole families to these towns. This movement was maintained so long as the prosperity of the woollen factories lasted. Of late years there has been dulness in this branch of manufacturing and the influx from the country has fallen off very much." Men are finding themselves better off in the country with 14s. or 15s. a week, cow's keep, 1,600 yards of potatoes, free house and garden, than with 26s. a week in the town.

(5) Unsuitable and unduly prolonged education.

SELKIRK.—The principal cause assigned is the decrease in land under crops, brought about by the low prices of produce and high wages of farm servants. Another cause, in Mr. Linton's opinion, is the decrease of cottars, principally women, who used to work for very small wages. Owing to competition in towns and the rise in wages, and also to the fact that married women seldom work in the fields now, this class has almost disappeared, their place being taken by Irish workers, who do not figure in the Census returns. The decrease in shepherds is attributed to high wages and smaller returns from sheep farming, there having been cases of putting two men's "hirsels" or charges into one.

Mr. Linton states that there are holdings of all sizes in the district, but the buildings are now mostly of old date, having been put up when prices were higher, and in cases where natural decay sets in new dwellings are not erected.

DIVISION VII.

Counties of Argyll, Ayr, Bute, Caithness, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Inverness, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Orkney, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigtown.

ARGYLL.—The fall in prices occasioned by the competition of foreign produce, coupled with a rise in wages, has caused large tracts of land to be thrown out of cultivation. Drainage and reclamation have practically ceased. Landlords have consolidated holdings, and some farms have been converted into deer forests. Many small farmers have emigrated to Canada, attracted by the prospects there. Improved machinery allows of farm work being done with less labour. Mr. Hunter alleges excessive rents and a want of labourers' cottages as further causes of the decline. Mr. McDiarmid says: "With education the young people naturally read, think, and act for

themselves, and the tendency towards life in town and light employment is on the increase in the youth of both sexes in the rural districts." Mr. Campbell, also, refers to the general disinclination on the part of the rising generation to undertake farm work. Mr. Andrew writes: "The decline is to a great extent caused by landlords holding farms, more especially pastoral farms, in their own hands, many of them being put under deer; also the tendency has been to group farms into too large holdings, whereby in the case of those unlet, a greive takes the place of a few farmers, families and cottagers; and where the ground is put under deer many shepherds and their families are sent adrift." Mr. Campbell, speaking with over forty years' experience of farming both at home and in Australia, says: "There is no difficulty in answering this question to anyone with practical experience. The capital invested in working a farm gives less net gain than that invested in other industries, consequently those able to do so turn to other pursuits or go abroad to farm. There is no question of rent or restrictions of lease involved, as owning occupiers of ability experience the same results as other occupiers. I expressly exclude any inference drawn from model home farms, or other farms in owners' hands so run as to encourage a heavy stock of game. There is no want of ability among those who farm in this country, they compare favourably in knowledge with similar classes in other countries, but the better the man the less likely he is to stay farming in this country."

AYR.—Mr. Sloan gives as reasons for the decline:—

- (1) The narrow margin between the prices obtained for produce and the cost of production.
- (2) The use of improved machinery for most agricultural purposes.
- (3) The better wages, shorter hours, and social surroundings in the larger towns.

Mr. Hannah considers that the principal cause is the difficulty of giving steady employment during the whole year.

CAITHNESS.—Owing to the decline in prices a great extent of land has been laid down in permanent pasture, hence the same number of agricultural labourers is not required. Improvements on the land are only carried out to a very small extent. Also the young people seem disinclined to remain, and seek employment in the large towns where they think they can better their position.

DUMFRIES.—Mr. Waugh gives the following as reasons for the decline:—

- (1) The lack of prospect for the agricultural labourer and the opportunities which other employments offer.
- (2) The use of labour-saving appliances.

Causes of
Decline.

(3) The pressure of adverse times on farmers, necessitating economy in labour.

Mr. Moffat considers that the children of farm servants are too well educated for agricultural work, and are trained for and desire a more congenial employment with more leisure.

Dr. Gillespie refers, for his opinion as to certain causes of the depletion of the rural districts, to part of an address delivered by him as Moderator of the Church of Scotland in May, 1903. The following is abridged from the remarks he then made:—

“That migration should have taken place to some extent is almost inevitable. Work is not so plentiful in the country as was formerly the case. Some improvements requiring manual labour, such as land drainage, have been to a large extent carried out, and, therefore, regular steady employment, especially for ordinary labourers not engaged by the year, has been curtailed. The introduction of labour-saving machinery on farms on an extensive scale has materially lessened the number of hands constantly required. But that the depletion has been carried to a point far beyond their influence is shown by the fact that there is a positive scarcity in the hands available, and that, too, at a scale of remuneration at least equal, when all things are taken into account, to what is paid in the cities and towns. There is a popular feeling that the lot of the rural labourer is less favourable than in point of fact it is. I can testify from an extensive and minute observation, extending over something like three score years, that, so far as Scotland is concerned, there is no class of the community whose general circumstances have undergone so much improvement as the farm labourer. In respect of the reduction of the hours of labour, lightening the burden of work, wages, food, clothing, and general comfort the condition of the agricultural labourers has undergone a greater advance and improvement than that of the corresponding class in the larger centres of population. The restless spirit of the age is, in my opinion, one of the most powerful factors in depleting the country districts. Nowhere is this more prevalent and visible than in purely rural localities among farm servants. The frequent flittings from farm to farm and from one district to another—evidence of which is seen in the large increase in the number of disjunction certificates now issued year by year—are at once a proof and a result of this restlessness. There are not a few districts and estates where the cottage accommodation is insufficient in extent or defective in quality, or where the shortcoming is in both respects.” Great improvement has taken place, Dr. Gillespie states, since the passing of the Local Government Act of 1889. “One of the regrettable and disquieting features of the situation, however, is that rural depopulation has been going on where cottages are plentiful and good. But there are not a few districts where there are insufficient cottages, as for example where the bothy system extensively prevails.”

Dr. Gillespie goes on to refer to the death duties as checking the building and improvement of cottages. "The incidence of the death duties in requiring the heir to landed property to pay the equivalent of three years' rents, cripples the spending power of new owners over a series of years to such an extent that not infrequently, as I have learned from observation over a wide district, fewer people than formerly have been employed and rural depopulation has been increased." In conclusion he adds that much has been done during the last two decades to lessen the naturally dull monotony of country life by the provision of parish halls, libraries, reading-rooms, lectures, concerts, and various entertainments and games.

Causes of
Decline.

INVERNESS.—The decline is ascribed to the following causes:—

(1) General depression among farmers owing to low prices, causing them to put land under grass and in other ways reduce the outlay on labour, especially in view of the high rate of wages prevailing.

(2) The clearing of sheep farms for deer forests.

(3) The breaking up of large sheep farms into smaller holdings, where shepherds are not required.

(4) The refusal in some parts to give the labourer or cottar land for his own cultivation.

(5) The inducements offered for emigration to the Colonies.

(6) The character of the education given in rural schools.

(7) A preference on the part of the young for work in the towns, fostered by increased travelling facilities, little inducement being offered to remain in the country.

(8) The high wages earned during the shooting season enabling men to be largely independent of farm work.

The last two causes are an additional reason for the laying of land to grass. On the subject of education Mr. Cameron writes: "This undoubtedly tends to make the country boy discontented with his lot and with the monotony of country life. It fires him with a desire to go south to the centres of population. Formerly boys who had a decided taste or liking for agricultural pursuits were encouraged by their parents to indulge these tastes, and so from an early age they acquired a knowledge and insight (which are now rare) into the ways and habits of animals. Now, being compelled to remain at school until the age of 14 or over, they acquire other tastes and habits and lose their liking for their fathers' occupation. Those who are to follow agricultural pursuits should be allowed to leave school at an earlier age."

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—The decrease is stated to be due to—

(1) The reduction of the cultivated area and the accompanying increase of grass land, requiring a smaller outlay on labour.

**Causes of
Decline.**

- (2) Reduced outlay on such works as fencing, draining, &c.
- (3) The use of machinery.

Mr. McDowall writes: "I may state that on the two farms I hold employment was found for five pairs of horses with their attendants during the seventies, while the ploughing is now done by one pair of horses. The same amount of produce cannot now be turned off the farm, but the outlay is reduced by £400 and there is also a saving in other directions."

Mr. Biggar states that there has been a tendency to increase the size of farms by adding one farm to another and also a reduction in the number of farmers by letting two or more holdings (not necessarily contiguous) to one farmer.

LANARK.—The decline is attributed to the following causes:—

(1) The great development of mining and other industries in the county during the last twenty-five years, and the occupation of land for railways, collieries, and buildings.

(2) Contact of the agricultural labourers with miners and ironworkers, and the inducements to enter these occupations for the sake of the higher wages and increase of leisure afforded.

(3) The laying down of land to pasture, as being more profitable than ordinary cropping. More hay is now grown to supply the needs of the collieries, and there is also a greater demand for milk.

(4) The improvement of agricultural machinery.

(5) The combining and letting of two or more farms to one tenant, resulting in an extension of grazing.

(6) A want of suitable cottages.

ORKNEY.—In Mr. McLennan's view the chief causes of the decline of the agricultural population during the whole period are:—

(1) The desire on the part of the rising generation for a more remunerative vocation, which the education now received enables them more readily to obtain in the commercial and industrial centres.

(2) The fall in the price of agricultural produce caused large farmers to employ less labour on their farms, with the result that the smaller farmers' families could not all be maintained on the produce of these small farms without extra employment.

Mr. Watt writes: "I do not think the decline that has taken place, at any rate as yet, materially affects this county, as there seems not much difficulty in filling up ploughmen's places. The wages demanded, however, are high, for this and for all other farm labour, compared to ten or fifteen years ago."

RENFREW.—The reasons assigned for the decline are:—

(1) Increased cost of labour and reduced price for most of the produce of arable farms, resulting in the land being laid down in grass.

(2) The adoption of labour-saving machinery.

(3) The heavy expense in the upkeep of farm buildings to meet modern requirements, especially on dairy farms to conform to sanitary regulations.

All three causes, Mr. Pollock states, tend to an increase in the size of the holding for economic working. He adds that many persons brought up on the land refuse to follow agriculture, and prefer life in the towns.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.—Mr. Reid considers that the apparent increase of farmers and graziers is incorrect. The decrease of shepherds is, he states, entirely owing to sheep land being turned into deer forests. Many farms employing six or seven shepherds have been cleared of sheep for this purpose. The decline in labourers is due:—

(1) To land being kept more in grass, very few farms being now worked on the four-course shift.

(2) To the use of machinery. The general use of the self-binder and manuring the turnip break in the autumn enables a farmer to do with many less hands.

Mr. Fletcher attributes the decrease to emigration and in general to the necessity of curtailing expenditure on labour in every possible way.

Mr. Mackenzie considers that the decline is entirely due to "over education." "The boys and girls, as soon as they are 14 or 15, go off to Glasgow and the south and will have nothing to say to their parents' occupations."

SHETLAND.—Mr. Mainland writes: "I cannot see that the decrease has been so much as is reported. As far as farmers and graziers are concerned, I can give no explanation whatever. The reasons of the decrease in labourers and farm servants are:—

"(1) There has been more machinery imported into the country.

"(2) There has been a great demand for Shetland hosiery and the females have devoted more of their time to the manufacturing of it than to agricultural labour."

A third reason Mr. Mainland finds is the herring-fishing, in which, he states, the greater part of the men and women in Shetland are engaged all the summer and harvest. He does not consider there has been any decrease amongst male farm servants. Mr. Anderson thinks that the successful fishings of recent years may partly account for the apparent decrease in the agricultural population, and adds that the passing of the

Causes of
Decline.

Crofters' Act may have also tended in this direction, previous to which many may not have been properly designated.

STIRLING.—Mr. Drysdale writes: "In a district like this (*i.e.*, Western district of Stirlingshire and West Perthshire) removed from centres of population and with expensive transit, the small holder is heavily handicapped and in some cases has found it impossible to earn a decent living for himself and family. The landlords find it a heavy burden keeping up suitable buildings on small holdings and have taken advantage as occasion offers to let them along with larger farms. More and more land, especially in the higher-lying districts, is being put down to permanent pasture, which is found to pay better than cropping, especially with sheep at present prices, and the labour bill can thus be materially cut down. The rearing of store cattle and selling them as stirks or six-quarter olds has long been the sheet anchor of the smaller holders in this county. There is not a living to be made out of such land in growing cereals or roots at present prices. A further reason contributing to the employment of fewer labourers is that an increasing acreage of the strong clay land is being put down to permanent hay, such as timothy. This system has been found more profitable and the labour bill can be considerably cut down. For instance, on a four pair of horse farm at least one ploughman and a pair of horses can be dispensed with by putting a section of the farm down to permanent timothy. I am the occupant of three farms which some years ago were occupied by three tenants. I have put two of these farms wholly under pasture and employ one shepherd on them. A near neighbour is the occupant of six holdings which a few years ago were in the hands of six tenants. Three of these holdings have been acquired during the past two years and will be put down to pasture as rapidly as possible." The increased use of machinery is also referred to as a cause of the employment of less labour.

On the other hand, the natural movement of the population away from the country is noted. Mr. Drysdale writes: "For years past the pick of our farm labourers have been migrating to the towns. The want of suitable cottages has contributed in no small degree to this state of matters. Another inducement is that a man with a young family has better chances of constant employment for his family at bigger wages in the large industrial centres than he could have in the country districts. An industrious man with three or four of a family working can earn far more per week in the brickfields of Lanarkshire, for example, than the same man and family could earn in any small holding that I know in this district in a month. Many of the cream of our young men are emigrating to the Colonies, seeing no prospect with limited means of earning a respectable livelihood here. Quite a number of farmers' sons have left within the last fortnight, as well as estate labourers and ploughmen."

WIGTOWN.—Mr. McMaster writes: “Under the present conditions of agriculture it is necessary to reduce by every possible means the expenses of the farm. More land is kept in grass, and what is ploughed is, as a rule, neither cultivated nor cleaned as it used to be. Little draining or other improvements are carried out. All sorts of labour-saving machinery are used. For these reasons fewer hands are required. Secondly, the present system of education in rural schools is unsuited to what must be the future position and career of the great majority of the children attending them, who must earn their living by manual labour. At fourteen they leave school with exalted ideas and a distaste for farm or domestic work.” Another cause of the decline Mr. McMaster finds in the increased facilities for travelling and the attractions of town life for the younger people—its variety, shorter hours, and higher wages.

Causes of
Decline.
—

Mr. Ralston states that the laying of land to grass has taken place, more especially in the Eastern or Machars division of the county. In the Western division, while a similar process has gone on, yet, dairying being the chief industry, many hands are still required, chiefly for milking. The better educated and more intelligent of ploughmen’s families, both young men and young women, incline to leave the country districts and farm life, though recently, Mr. Ralston states, in no greater numbers.

3. Is there any difficulty in obtaining land either for Small Holdings or Allotments, and if so, has this difficulty contributed in any degree to the decline in the Agricultural population?

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

ENGLAND.

DIVISION I.

(a.) *Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford, Middlesex and London.*

BEDFORD.—There is stated to be no difficulty whatever; many allotments are going out of cultivation as they do not pay.

HUNTINGDON.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments; a large number have been let, but many have been given up voluntarily, as they do not pay on the strong high lands. There is little demand for small holdings on the strong lands, which are quite unsuitable, but in the Fen lands there is a great demand which is hardly met. Some of the more intelligent and thrifty labourers are now occupying as much as

300 acres, and a greater number from 20 to 100 acres. It is not considered that a lack of holdings has contributed in any degree to the decline.

CAMBRIDGE.—It is reported that there is no difficulty in obtaining land for allotments. Mr. Jenyns writes: "I have several acres just outside my park let to 15 allotment holders at a rent of 7s. 6d. per rood, payable yearly at Michaelmas, and 1s. per rood is returned if the rent is paid within one week of demand. I pay rates, &c., and keep up the hedges. Under these conditions I have no difficulty with the tenants, and the land is fairly well cultivated. Here, many of the cottages have good gardens attached; and an annual flower show, in which great interest is taken, has done much to improve the quality of the produce grown. If a farm labourer has a good garden at his back door, it is almost as much land as he can well cultivate. Allotments must be near the centre of a village to make them of any practical use."

As regards small holdings, the same writer says: "A neighbouring landlord who farms a large quantity of his own land informs me that he has made a point of letting land to small holders when asked for it, but in his experience they cannot be made to pay unless the holders have some other employment or occupation as well. They work harder and fare worse than farm labourers. He adds that his allotments are about half unlet, and have been taken in bulk by a small holder on the understanding that should they be required again as allotments he would have to give way."

In the opinion of another adjoining landlord, Mr. Jenyns states, one great obstacle to the creation of small holdings is that their planning out involves the disintegration of larger farms, and while the provision of appropriate sites for buildings is a matter of considerable difficulty, the construction of the latter is very costly. The importance of the neighbourhood of a steady market as a factor in successful management is also urged. Mr. Jenyns remarks that a good deal of surplus produce is grown in the gardens of agricultural labourers, and that it would be an advantage if this could be collected, say, once a week, by motor vans, conveyed to a central dépôt, and there packed and despatched; by this means a possible market would be opened to the producer.

Mr. Stephenson writes: "By far the largest proportion of land in this district is unsuitable for small holdings. These require a deep rich free-working soil and a good market for their garden or other special produce. Most of Cambridgeshire is corn and sheep-producing land, and these products cannot pay with small holdings. I hold the opinion very decidedly that the attempt to bring population back to the country to work on the land will end in disappointment, excepting in special circumstances." He anticipates,

however, that good results would follow if manufacturing industries were transplanted to the villages adjoining railways, thus enabling the employés to spend their spare time in growing fruit and vegetables, rearing poultry, or even producing milk, whilst at the same time their families would be brought up under healthier conditions than at present.

CAMBRIDGE (ISLE OF ELY).—There are said to be quite as many allotments as are wanted, and many small holdings exist, for which there is always a good demand.

SUFFOLK.—There are plenty of allotments, and they are not sought after as they used to be. Wages are higher and the men less inclined to work after their day's labour is done. Small holdings are not easy to get, but there is little demand for them; partly perhaps on account of the difficulty of securing the necessary capital. No application has been made to the County Committee during recent years.

ESSEX.—There is no lack of allotments, indeed, many it is said are lacking tenants; little demand exists for small holdings, the provision of the necessary buildings presents great difficulty.

HERTFORD.—While in some districts there is no lack of allotments and no difficulty in obtaining small holdings when required, in other parts the case is different. Mr. Rae writes: "There is a great scarcity of small holdings, and it is almost impossible to get allotments on favourable terms." In the neighbourhood of Sawbridgeworth some difficulty is also experienced, but in no case is it considered that this has at all contributed to the decline in population.

MIDDLESEX.—Mr. De Salis writes: "The villages are mostly well supplied with allotments. I have never heard of any great demand for small holdings in this neighbourhood." On the other hand, Mr. Lobjoit writes: "There is a difficulty in obtaining small holdings. Small places of about 20 acres let readily at high rentals; much land within 10 or 15 miles west of here now devoted to corn, if cut up into small holdings, with suitable house and premises, would let readily at enhanced rents."

(b.) *Counties of Norfolk, Lincoln and York (East Riding).*

NORFOLK.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments, in fact, many have been given up; small holdings are also readily obtainable when required. Mr. Tallent (Swaffham) states that there is no particular demand in his district.

LINCOLN.—There is not the slightest difficulty in obtaining allotments, in fact there are insufficient applicants in many cases. To the agricultural labourer work on an allotment is no change, and at present prices it does not pay to grow more

produce than is required for personal needs, or to feed a pig. To working men near towns, however, allotments are a great boon. Mr. Brown (Appleby, Lindsey) writes: "There have been here for a very long time more than 40 'cow cottages'; they are being given up and let to the farmers. In surrounding parishes similar holdings are entirely given up." Mr. Frankish (St. Catherines, Lindsey) says: "Labourers in Lincolnshire generally have good gardens, or the farmer gives them potatoes, or land to grow them on, and when a man is working all day he does not want to go to an allotment. The tradesmen, blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., are generally the applicants, and often get the lot in the end."

As to small holdings, Mr. Morton (Washingboro', Kesteven) writes: "Few labourers have any capital to take up a small holding. Some scheme should be devised by which the best and most industrious of them should have the chance of getting one at a fair rent. At present, owing to the great demand; small holdings command a higher rent than they are really worth, generally 50 to 75 per cent. higher than similar land let to larger tenants, and as the assessment for local rates is in most Unions based upon the actual rent, this entails a double hardship. Of course, for various reasons the rent of a small holding must be to some extent higher than that of a larger farm." Mr. Frankish thinks that there is not now any difficulty in obtaining small holdings, but that there are few places in Lincs., except Holland, where they can pay, and even there they are said to be overdone and profits very much reduced.

Mr. Bellwood (Kirtton Lindsey) writes: "There is a difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings, for which there is a keen demand, though many of those who have them are badly off. I had fifty applications a fortnight ago for a farm of 32 acres, from a single advertisement."

YORK, E. RIDING.—A difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable land for allotments and small holdings. Mr. Pearson writes: "The land round here was originally owned by small men, but, with few exceptions, now forms one estate. Some villages are still occupied by small freeholders, and these may be frequently detected by the dilapidated state of buildings, &c. No system of small holdings can in my opinion prove successful unless organised by a large landowner of a very sympathetic nature. Precautions should be taken to prevent the sale, mortgage, or splitting up of the property held."

DIVISION II.

(a.) *Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks and Hants.*

KENT.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments. Mr. Love (Eastchurch, Sheppey) writes: "There are several allotments in hand in this parish, close to the village. All the farm cottages have gardens attached, and are let at 2s. to

3s. per week, free of rates." Mr. Whitehead considers that while allotments may make the married labourers more contented, they do not offer any inducement to keep the younger men on the land. As regards small holdings, he writes: "The importance of small holdings and their usefulness in keeping villagers on the land, are not sufficiently realised in Kent. Where there are small holders they do well, especially those who have a little fruit land, but there is certainly a difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings." (*See also* p. 101.)

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

SURREY.—Large farms are easier to get and less wanted, and therefore disproportionately cheaper than small ones. Small holdings at fair rents are badly wanted but are difficult to get. Had they been obtainable, it is thought the decline in population would not have been so great.

SUSSEX.—There appears to be no difficulty as regards allotments, and these are not much wanted, as most of the cottages have good gardens attached. With reference to small holdings, Mr. Haviland writes: "There is a great demand for small grass holdings from 10 to 40 acres, but speaking generally, these small farmers are not able to pay such rents as to justify the extra capital outlay on house and buildings. The demand is created quite as much by retired tradesmen and people who vainly hope to make a living amidst pleasant surroundings, as by agricultural labourers who have saved a few pounds and seek to improve their position." He further observes that a farmer cannot well employ a labourer who occupies a few acres of land, as the latter wants to work on his own farm just when he is most wanted by the farmer. Mr. Haviland considers that while the creation of a number of small grass holdings would for a time increase the agricultural population, the tenants could only make a living by paying rents which would not be remunerative to the owner.

Mr. Grant finds no general desire for small holdings, and remarks that the small holder was the first to go to the wall when depression set in. "There are," he writes, "numbers of holdings from 6 to 20 acres to let, and there is a difficulty in finding tenants able and willing to use the land." Mr. H. W. Drewitt writes: "Small holdings are not in demand except near towns, and, as far as I can ascertain, landowners are always ready to meet any demand, provided they can get sufficient rent to cover the extra outlay required. During the last few years, £20 to £25 houses with 5 to 10 acres of land have been largely in request by people with a small assured income who wish to live in the country, raise poultry, and keep a cow or two; if this continues it will become much more difficult for the genuine small holder, whose sole income is from the land, to find a small farm at a reasonable rent." Mr. Chandler states that there is very great difficulty in obtaining small holdings, for which there is a keen demand; he

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

thinks this has contributed to the decline in population, since small holdings employ more labour proportionately than large farms.

BERKSHIRE.—There are plenty of allotments; many have been given up and are cultivated with the larger holdings; they do not pay unless close to a town. There is said to be little demand for small holdings.

HAMPSHIRE.—There is not much demand for allotments, though the facilities for obtaining them appear to be adequate. Mr. Perkins urges the necessity of providing them with pig-styes and tool-sheds, and suggests that the rent should include a sinking fund to provide for purchase. As regards small holdings, Mr. Judd states that there is little demand, and that all applications to the County Council have been considered and granted as far as practicable. Mr. Perkins thinks the supply is not equal to the demand, as there is always competition for a good holding. Lack of capital deters many, who are otherwise eligible, from taking small holdings; it is suggested that facilities for obtaining credit through co-operative banks might solve this difficulty.

(b.) *Counties of Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland, Northampton, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick.*

NOTTINGHAM.—There is not much demand for allotments and no difficulty in obtaining them. Mr. Smith writes: "In this parish many have been given up and are occupied in 2 or 3-acre lots by village shopkeepers and tradesmen; scarcely a labourer has one now, but all the cottages have gardens attached." Of small holdings, Mr. Walker writes: "There is a keen competition for small holdings of 10 to 40 acres, and these command very often a higher rent than is justified by the profit to be got out of them, except where situated close to a town. There are not sufficient of these small farms to satisfy the demand. The cost of putting up buildings to create such holdings would be very great."

LEICESTER.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments. Mr. Longwill writes: "Allotments are in no demand here; I have some on my farm and no one wants them, although they are close to the village." Mr. Bassett writes: "The County Council have been prepared for some years to settle any difficulty, but only a few cases have occurred." Small holdings are stated to be very difficult to obtain in many villages, and the rents are proportionately very much higher than those of larger farms. Mr. Longwill suggests that money should be advanced to landlords at a low rate of interest to enable them to provide the necessary buildings; he considers that an increase of small holdings of not less than 50 acres, or in the case of good and well-situated land, 20 to 25 acres in extent, would be beneficial.

RUTLAND.—The demand for allotments is said to be amply met throughout the county, and there is no demand for small holdings.

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

NORTHAMPTON.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments; the supply is ample and there is less demand than formerly. Mr. Rooke writes: "Beyond the convenience of a 'potato patch,' the thirst for allotments has largely died out, owing to cheap food products of all kinds being hawked round our villages, and the aversion of well-paid labourers to exerting themselves unduly after working hours." As regards small holdings, he continues, "There is a difficulty in procuring small holdings, for which there is an increasing demand; every holding requires a house and homestead fitted to its size, and these are not forthcoming without an expenditure of capital and the remodelling of existing arrangements." Mr. Dickson writes: "Small holdings to rent were encouraged in this neighbourhood some years ago by one or two landowners, but with very few exceptions they have not proved successful, and the small holding hardly now exists as such, although in one or two cases a man who began with a small holding now occupies a farm of considerable area."

BUCKINGHAM.—There is stated to be no difficulty whatever in obtaining allotments; many have been given up as they did not pay for the time and trouble spent in working. Mr. Treadwell writes: "There is more difficulty in finding tenants for allotments already laid out. In one instance, where some were wanted, the parish took 6 acres of my best land, next the village; they could not find tenants for 3 acres of it without letting some to tradesmen, and I had to take 3 acres back."

OXFORD.—As regards allotments, Mr. King writes: "We have had a few applications to the County Council, but these have generally been met by arrangement with landowners without having to resort to compulsory powers." Mr. Ashurst says: "Any amount of allotment land can be had, and a large number round here are out of cultivation." Of small holdings he writes: "The experiment of very small holdings came utterly to grief at Attington, and I do not hear of any desire for them in this part." The latter statement is corroborated by others. Mr. Greaves writes: "I can say from actual facts that the small holder is in a deplorable state as regards his finances and the bad state of the land. The moderate sized farm where stock can be produced is what the country needs."

WARWICK.—There is no difficulty in obtaining land for allotments; the demand is decreasing, and many have been given up. On the whole, there appears to be little demand for very small holdings. Mr. Sale, however, thinks there would be a good demand for 50 or 60-acre lots of land. Mr. Lane writes: "Away from towns or lacking

special surroundings, small holdings cannot be profitably cultivated, and in my district have not to my knowledge been asked for."

DIVISION III.

(a.) *Counties of Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Wilts, Monmouth and Hereford.*

SALOP.—There appears to be little demand for allotments, which, except near the towns, are not a success. Of small holdings, Mr. Morris writes: "There is a good demand for convenient small holdings with houses and buildings thereon, and a number of these would let readily to suitable tenants. Land could no doubt be had at a reasonable price, but no one seems disposed to bear the cost of the houses and buildings, knowing that no ordinary tenant could pay anything like fair interest on the outlay." Mr. Lee states that holdings of 3 or 4 acres of grass land are not sufficiently plentiful, and that had such been offered to thrifty labourers the prospect would have counterbalanced the desire for change. Mr. Thursfield writes: "This district (Much Wenlock) is particularly suited for small holdings; there are a good number, and they are much sought after. Many were provided when the £10 franchise gave votes in this, the largest agricultural borough of England in those days. They pay regularly, with no losses or arrears, form a stepping-stone for a farm labourer and will keep him on the land. On a large arable farm which I held for many years each of my farm labourers rented a small holding and had a cow (men attending to horses and cattle excepted); I found this attracted the best workmen, and was most satisfactory to both parties."

WORCESTER.—Mr. Wheeler writes: "In this district nearly all the cottages have fair-sized gardens. I laid out some allotments about ten years ago, but they have all been given up. I do not think there is any difficulty in getting allotments in any part of the county. The County Council have some in the south of the county which are always let, but there is no very great competition for them; the tendency is for the allotments to get into fewer hands, the best tenants being anxious to take an additional plot when one becomes vacant. No doubt more small holdings would be taken up if they were available. As a rule the small holder does better as a tenant than as a freeholder; the latter generally goes under, at all events in the second generation." The difficulties, he remarks, in the way of the creation of small holdings are:—

- (1) The expense of providing the necessary buildings.
- (2) The unwillingness of the large farmers to part with any of their land, so that even if a landlord is willing to incur the expense, a small holding can practically only be carved out on a change of tenancy.

"I do not think," says Mr. Wheeler, "a general cutting up of large farms into small holdings would be successful in this district. The tenant of a small holding (say up to 20 acres) cannot, except, perhaps, by market gardening, live upon it. If he has outside employment the holding is a great help to him, and he should also be a help to the neighbouring farmer by supplying extra labour in busy times. To effect this, the holdings should be dotted about the country. The venture of the County Council in cutting up a farm at Catshill, near Bromsgrove, has been very successful, but the position there was very exceptional."

GLOUCESTER.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments, in fact many are going out of cultivation. Mr. Hulbert writes: "A man can buy all garden produce in this neighbourhood cheaper than he can grow it in an allotment. Let him have a cottage and a good garden and he is better off than ever he was." Small holdings are said to be in little demand. Mr. White writes: "Small holdings are of no use on poor arable land far away from big centres. I own several, and I know that the tenants work hard and live hard and yet do no good, although the rent is from 10s. to 15s. per acre; the land is most suitable for corn, which does not pay to grow." Nevertheless he considers that small holdings may be an inducement to keep the best class of farm labourers on the land by providing a position of independence which they can look forward to, but which will only be attained by thrift, keen industry and hard work. The land for such holdings, however, must be fairly good, and ample facilities must exist for marketing the produce; even then the occupiers must expect to do the work of two men for the wages of one.

WILTSHIRE.—There is no lack of allotments; a great many have been given up as the low price of produce makes it unprofitable to cultivate them. In the case of small holdings there is some difficulty. Mr. Stevens writes: "Small holdings are very rare, and where they exist the occupier has to do the work of two men, and then very rarely succeeds in making a living. I do not think the lack has contributed in any degree to the decline in the population." Mr. Squarey writes: "The opportunities of obtaining small holdings are not as frequent as we could wish, the question of housing, homestead, water supply, and fencing are the main obstacles." Referring to the failure of a particular experiment some years ago in the direction of providing small holdings, he states that there was less disposition to accept them than he had been led to expect. "We have several instances," he writes, "of property split up into small holdings which for the most part are not satisfactory from a financial and industrial point of view. Only in one case am I fairly assured of their being financially a success, viz., at Winterslow, near Salisbury, under the early guidance of Major

Poore. In this case the occupiers have a source of winter income from the coppice and timber industries near at hand."

MONMOUTH.—Away from the towns there is little demand for allotments, where cottages have good gardens and (which is very general) potato ground is provided free of cost; in many cases allotments have been given up. Of small holdings Mr. Stratton writes: "Small holdings are readily taken up, and no doubt more would be if offered within a reasonable distance of towns or railway stations, but they are of little account except for garden produce or poultry or both combined; for corn growing they are impossible." Mr. Wrigley says: "In former times small holdings were much sought after, as the occupiers could obtain work on the farms or in the woods, but from the fact of their having a cow or two of their own they do not readily take to the work that is now required on the farms, namely stock-keeping, which involves longer hours and also Sunday duty; there is also not nearly so much work in the woods. Consequently, the holdings are increasing in size from 2 or 3 acres up to 10 acres, and many of the cottages are being pulled down or converted into buildings."

Mr. Williams remarks that small holdings are let readily at rents which, though comparatively high, would not cover the interest on the outlay for the necessary house and buildings. He writes: "In the neighbouring county of Hereford, a few years ago a demand was made on a parish council to provide small holdings; a farm of about 30 acres was to be had at about 30s. an acre, or reasonable terms of purchase. Three applicants asked for 10 acres each; to provide two more sets of buildings would have entailed an outlay the interest on which would have brought the rent to nearly £3 an acre, so, I believe, they were all refused." Mr. Williams does not think a lack of small holdings has contributed to the decline in population.

HEREFORD.—The number of allotments appears to be equal to requirements. As regards small holdings, Mr. Riley writes: "Hereabouts, and, indeed, all over the county there are so many small holdings that there has been no agitation for them. It is true the applications are numerous when one is to let. I had 80 for a very good grass farm of 40 acres (half orcharding) this year, and over 50 for one of 20 acres three years ago. It would be better to have more 12 to 30-acre farms, but it simply does not pay to make them. The county being adapted to orcharding, is very favourable for small holdings."

Mr. Wootton writes: "Forty years ago there were quite a number of 5 to 50-acre farms in this district, and many of the cottages had from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 acres of orcharding attached. An industrious man with a family was able to keep a few sheep or a cow or two, and grow fruit, &c.; from this small beginning many of the best and most practical farmers in our district have

sprung. In West Herefordshire we have many large estates of 7,000 to 10,000 acres; the owners being large game preservers preferred to have large farms rather than small holdings. Where these existed they have been bought up by the large owners, and the demand for them growing, they have often let for more than double the rent of adjoining farms." Mr. Turner does not consider that the want of small holdings has contributed much to the decline in population.

(b.) *Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.*

SOMERSET.—The supply of allotments appears to be more than sufficient for requirements. Mr. Berry says: "Many have been given up and are now full of weeds; at least half in this parish are idle at present, clearly proving to me that the decline in the labouring population was not due to the want of land." Mr. Gibbons writes: "In our parish, although we have a mixed agricultural and mining population, not half the allotments are occupied; this is not a solitary case, but is general in the district." Mr. Parsons writes: "When the Allotments Act of 1887 was passed, everyone wanted allotments, but now tenants cannot be found for them."

Small holdings let readily and at higher rents than large farms, but this is accounted for by the proportionately greater cost of the buildings. If situated near towns and on good land, a greater number would be an advantage. Mr. Berry writes: "It would be expensive to make small holdings on account of house and buildings having to be erected, but if more of 10 to 50 acres existed I believe they would find tenants and probably maintain a family, but, generally, I notice that small holdings are not well farmed, and if the farmer and his family would work for a large farmer as they do on their own farm, they would be better off; a small holding on poor land is useless." Mr. Gibbons says: "We have a number of small farms, but changes are most frequent, and one after another is sold up."

DORSET.—Allotments appear to be readily obtainable. In many places they have been given up, but it is thought that the demand would be increased if a ready market could be found for surplus produce. While in some districts there is little demand for small holdings, in others they are keenly competed for. Mr. Duke writes: "As regards the small holding, which I take to be anything from 10 to 50 acres, a large area in the county is not adapted for this kind of husbandry, and it is probable that in many parts if the better land were taken for this purpose it would tend to throw more of the poor land to which it is now attached out of cultivation. There is just now a considerable demand for this class of holding, but applicants are not of the agricultural labourer class, but mostly small tradesmen and townsfolk, whose experience is very

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

limited, and whose requirements as to building accommodation make it extremely doubtful that they could make sufficient out of the produce of a small holding at prevailing prices to pay an adequate rent to cover the heavy outlay that would be necessary." It is not considered that the lack either of allotments or small holdings has contributed to the decline in population.

DEVON.—In some cases there is difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings, and to some extent this is thought to have contributed to the rural exodus. At the same time it is remarked that few labourers could enter on a holding without assistance. The chief obstacle is not the want of land but the cost of providing the requisite buildings. Mr. Chamier writes: "The increased requirements of local authorities, the general demand for improved accommodation for man and beast render it impracticable to provide these except at a loss. Small holdings are in good demand; as a rule the tenants do well, and the present tendency is to preserve the small holdings and not to throw them into the larger ones as used to be the case in the inflated times of thirty years ago." There appears to be a great demand for small dairy holdings of 20 to 80 acres.

CORNWALL.—There is no evidence of any demand for allotments that is not fully supplied. Mr. Thomas writes: "Farm labourers generally have good gardens and mostly also twenty perches of land for growing potatoes, free of cost. Land for small holdings is obtainable without much difficulty, but the expense of erecting the necessary buildings is practically prohibitive." Mr. Menhinick remarks: "I do not think there would be much inducement to obtain small holdings in this district, as it is so far from large centres of population that the markets would not be good enough to make them a success." Mr. Rawling states that there are many thousand of acres of unenclosed land, much of which might be turned to very useful account, and many labourers, if they could have financial assistance on the security of their holdings, would be inclined to try what they could do with it.

DIVISION IV.

(a.) *Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York (North Riding) and York (West Riding).*

NORTHUMBERLAND.—Allotments are but little sought for except by townsmen or by carters who wish to grow a little horse-corn or a few potatoes. Most of the labourers live on the farms and have cottages with good gardens rent-free; moreover, they get potatoes grown for them on the farm, and generally a cow kept.

Small holdings are stated to be in great demand and to command relatively high rents, especially grass holdings. The demand, however, is said by Mr. Marshall to come less

from the strictly agricultural population than from those who have other employment. Mr. Chrisp writes: "More holdings of a rental of £100 to £150 per annum are required, as one this size gives full employment to a man and his family, and when working for themselves they are more interested in the work and thus more inclined to stay in the country." Mr. Bolan states that in his district farm servants are taking most of the smaller farms that are to let.

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

DURHAM.—The demand both for small holdings and allotments is stated to be very small, and where they are wanted there is said to be no difficulty in obtaining land. Mr. Kent refers to a limited demand for small holdings of 30 to 60 acres. It is not thought that this question has had any particular bearing upon the decline in population.

YORK (N. RIDING).—There is great difficulty in obtaining small holdings except when situated where no profit can be made; this difficulty is held to have undoubtedly contributed to the decline. Mr. Robinson writes: "My young men when over twenty generally want a wife, and there being no small holdings, they drift into the towns. Sometimes we come across exceptions; in Cleveland two men who were once labourers of mine are now farming 150 acres or so each and are doing very well, but these are very exceptional men." Mr. Walton remarks that land near the villages is exceedingly dear and difficult to secure, the demand being active. Mr. Wood writes: "Where small holdings of 20 to 50 acres with house and suitable buildings are to let they are immediately taken up. One of the chief reasons for this is that farmers do not care to pay a man his full wage in cash, but prefer to board him in the house and pay the wages once a year; consequently, when an agricultural labourer saves enough money to marry he must either take a small holding or seek employment in the large towns."

YORK (W. RIDING).—There appears to be little demand for small holdings or allotments. Mr. Thompson writes: "The rate of wages is so much higher and the cost of living so much lower than formerly, that there is a tendency for the labourer to take things more easily; he does not care to work overtime nor to allow the demands which a small holding makes on his time to interfere with his regular employment. In this small village there were several small holdings, chiefly grass, some years ago, when wages were 13s. or 14s. per week; each occupier kept one or more cows and sold the produce. The husband worked on the neighbouring farms and the wife milked the cows. Now that the man has a wage of about 20s. per week the necessity for the wife to work has ceased to exist, and the land has either been given up to larger farmers, or is mown for hay or sublet to anyone who will take it." He adds that his remarks apply only to very small holdings, and not to farms which are sufficiently large to occupy the whole or greater

part of the time of a man and his family. Colonel Maude remarks that small yeoman farmers with 20 to 50 acres of land were very numerous 50 or 60 years ago, but that this class has been almost extinguished, principally owing to the strain on their resources caused by the bad seasons and diseases amongst stock in the later seventies. He is convinced that tenant farmers are in a better position during long periods of depression than small occupying owners. He thinks that if it were wanted, land could be easily obtained for small holdings provided it was not taken from the best land near the villages, leaving the poorer land to the large farmers. Mr. Beadon remarks that in the Huddersfield district most of the farms are small, and are worked by the occupiers and their sons.

(b.) *Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby and Stafford.*

CUMBERLAND.—Mr. Tinniswood observes that the price of small holdings per acre is much higher than that of larger holdings, and that the cost of buildings is a bar to the extension of their number. Mr. Shanks writes: "Small holdings of 60 acres and under let at tremendous rents. Competition for this class of holding is so keen that depression is sure to follow. Farms of 300 acres and upwards—I do not refer to hill farms—can be had at little more than half the rent of the former." Mr. Watt writes: "The prospect of being able in the near future to rent small farms would in my opinion induce the better class of labourers to remain on the land and to take a greater interest in agriculture. Here the question of capital comes in, which is met to some extent in the 'Fell' districts by the landowners providing the standing flocks of sheep. An extension of such a system on a substantial financial basis would give the best class of men a start."

WESTMORLAND.—Mr. Punchard states that there is no reluctance to provide land for small holdings or allotments where an adequate return can be looked for, and provided that the best meadows or pastures of the larger farms are not demanded; the essential difficulty is the cost of erecting buildings meeting the modern requirements of sanitary authorities, and the prospect of insufficient return in the shape of rent. "Landowners," he remarks, "are more ready to provide the small holdings than suitable tenants are likely to be found who would or could pay adequate rents." Of the small farms which formerly existed he writes: "Despite a desire on the part of sundry large landowners to maintain these small holdings, they have gradually disappeared because their maintenance called for unremunerative outlay of capital. Whenever a house on a small holding has got much out of repair and has required a considerable outlay in money, the inability to secure an adequate return of interest has resulted in the abolition of the

farm as a separate holding." This has occurred particularly in the case of very small holdings—15 to 20 acres—which formerly were held in connection with village industries. "With the loss of these industries and therewith the loss of casual employment in the way of carting, &c., the small holder had no opportunity of augmenting his income, whilst the profits from the land itself also dwindled so that they were not sufficient by themselves to maintain the man and his family."

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

LANCASHIRE.—There appears to be very little unsatisfied demand either for small holdings or allotments. If wanted, they can readily be obtained. Near towns there is some demand for land for market gardens.

CHESHIRE.—Mr. Davies writes: "I candidly confess that the lack of more small holdings has contributed to the decline of the agricultural population. I am a strong believer in the multiplication of small holdings as the best means (in Cheshire) of checking this migration to towns, and enabling farmers to secure a better class of workmen and of indoor female labour for the dairy farms."

The difficulty in the way of creating more small holdings is not in obtaining land but in the cost of putting up the requisite buildings.

Mr. Beecroft states that most of the labourers have good cottages and gardens, and in many instances sufficient land to keep a cow; while Mr. Ravenshaw states that in the same district the resident labourer has a small holding or allotment or, failing this, is usually allowed potato ground.

DERBY.—It is not thought that the demand for small holdings has increased, and as regards allotments, Mr. Waite observes that such land soon goes out of cultivation for want of manure, when several plots will be thrown together and let to farmers for roots.

STAFFORD.—There is no difficulty in obtaining allotments—in fact, many are tenantless. Mr. Carrington Smith writes: "During the fifty years spent by me in the occupation of my present farm, I have seen one block of allotments given up; the old allotment field has been added to the small holding of the village blacksmith. Whereas thirty to fifty years ago it paid a labourer, earning from 2s. to 2s. 4d. per day, to dig for beans, barley, or other grain with which to feed a pig, it now no longer pays him to work for himself; his wages being 25 per cent. higher and allotment produce (say) 30 per cent. lower, the economic status of spade husbandry has been revolutionised." Small holdings of 20 to 60 acres are, Mr. Smith states, decidedly in demand; on such holdings very little hired labour is required. There have, however, been no applications to the Staffordshire County Council. Captain Levett writes: "Of course the great difficulty of small holdings is the question of capital for the necessary buildings, as many a man would like to try

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

his hand at miniature farming if somebody else would in the first instance erect the necessary homestead." Mr. Smith remarks that there is so great a demand for non-agricultural labour that small (3 to 4-acre) holdings and allotments are not likely to increase.

WALES.

DIVISION V.

ANGLESEY.—Small holdings are stated to be much more easily let, and at higher rents, than larger farms. A tendency, however, is observed to throw small holdings, as they become vacant, into large ones to save the cost of building. Mr. Nicholls Jones thinks this is much to be deplored.

BRECON.—Mr. Price states that small holdings are not easily obtained, and that in consequence of the keen competition they let at higher rents than larger farms, especially near the towns and villages. He considers that State assistance should be obtainable for the provision of buildings, the expense of which is the principal difficulty in the way of creating small holdings. There is not much demand for allotments. Mr. Price writes: "When the landlords are willing to grant land for this purpose, tenants are loth to part with the best portions of their holdings, while the inferior parts are not suitable. As far as I can make out, however, this matter has not contributed in any degree to the decline of the agricultural population."

CARDIGAN.—Mr. Jones writes: "When the Allotments Act was passed many applications were made for a plot of land to maintain a cow; in most cases they were rejected. Where there is a cottage with sufficient land attached to maintain about two cows, situated in rather an outlandish locality, with no roads, far away from school, church, railway, &c., it is difficult to let even at a very reasonable rent. People want to live near the main road with all other conveniences. There is a great demand for small holdings where the soil is naturally fertile, and, as a rule, they are highly rented." Those at a high elevation are not keenly asked for, and many have been recently grouped together. Mr. Jones thinks there would be more small holdings if it paid to erect new buildings. Mr. Edwards writes: "The county is eminently one of small holdings, for which there is always great demand. No attempt has been made to meet this demand either privately or by public authorities."

CARMARTHEN.—The replies to this question are conflicting. Mr. Drummond states that the supply is more than equal to the demand in rural districts. Mr. Thomas thinks there is no demand for allotments. Mr. Rees, however, writes: "Yes,

there is great difficulty, and it has probably contributed much to the decline in our agricultural population. Whenever land was applied for by a working man through the parish council, I cannot recall a single application that succeeded; both landlord and tenant opposed the Allotment Act."

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

CARNARVON.—It is stated that there would be no difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings or allotments if there were a demand for such.

DENBIGH.—There is stated to be great difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings and allotments.

GLAMORGAN.—One correspondent considers that more land would be cultivated if small holdings or allotments became general, but rents are too high and allotments are not as a rule encouraged. Mr. Forrest writes: "There is a considerable difficulty in obtaining small holdings owing to the heavy initial expenditure on house and buildings, and as the present byelaws prohibit anything in the nature of a temporary structure, the capital outlay is too great for a sufficiently moderate rent to cover, at even a low rate of interest, leaving out the question of a sinking fund being provided to purchase the holding. Small holdings, where they do exist, are in very great demand and easily let well. As to allotments, there is a demand near large centres of population, but in the purely agricultural districts I do not think allotments are in request, as the gardens attached to cottages are ample for ordinary requirements, and I have noticed that in many cases the allotments are worked in a slovenly manner. As to whether the lack of small holdings has contributed to the present conditions, I should say not, as in one particular district in which I manage property there are a large number of these holdings, but I notice that for the most part the occupiers are old people, and when a place becomes vacant one of the children or a relative of the old tenant generally applies for it from some town where they have gone to live and work. Again, the people who want small holdings are invariably those who have made some money and want a small place which they can manage themselves, and who would not work for the surrounding farmers, without which these holdings would not suffice to bring up a family. To be a success from the agriculturist's point of view, the occupiers of small holdings should in a measure supply the extra labour required on the land during the busy season."

MERIONETH.—Mr. Wynne states that no difficulty is experienced, there being many small holdings available in the district which are not occupied. The agricultural labourers do not care to live in secluded cottages.

MONTGOMERY.—The correspondents for this county, in a joint reply, write as follows: "There would be no difficulty in obtaining land for allotments, but there is indeed little or no demand for them. We cannot remember any application to

the County Council for a holding of this description. There would be no difficulty either in procuring land for small holdings (5 to 25 acres), as landowners would willingly put land at the disposal of suitable applicants for this purpose. But the difficulty is in providing the necessary buildings. In view of the cost of erecting buildings adapted to modern requirements, and the large remissions of rent granted in recent years by landowners, the latter have not the means to provide for the outlay; moreover, the inadequate money return does not encourage such outlay."

PEMBROKE.—There is stated to be no difficulty in obtaining land. Cottages, however, almost without exception, have gardens large enough to occupy the workmen's spare time and to supply all the vegetables required except, perhaps, potatoes, and these can be grown in the farmer's field by arrangement, or, in the case of regular labourers, are supplied as a customary part of the yearly hiring bargain. There are also, Mr. Richards states, a considerable number of small holdings scattered throughout the district, but the demand for them is nothing like that for farms of 100 to 200 acres and upwards by farmers' sons. He writes: "Nearly all these (the small farms) and some of our largest farms up to 300 acres are occupied by men who began life as farm servants, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, &c. Most are doing well, and in many cases are more progressive and enterprising than some of the hereditary farmers of the neighbourhood. It is doubtful, however, if the small occupiers are in a much better position than the good workman who has remained an agricultural labourer. As farm servants they accumulated a small hoard which enabled them to take a small farm. But their sons and daughters generally have to begin life as farm servants or are sent to learn a trade of some sort and are thus no better off than the children of the regular agricultural labourer."

RADNOR.—Mr. Lewis states that great difficulty is experienced in his district in obtaining small holdings or allotments, and if land is obtainable it is often of such a nature as to be worthless for the purpose required. "To my knowledge," he writes, "there are a number of industrious working men who would make ideal managers of small holdings if they could get them. I may say the majority of farmers in this part of the county employ single men who board and sleep on the premises, consequently, when they get married they have to go to the coal pits or public works, or drift into the towns; when such men are able to get a small farm, they work it themselves and train up their children in thrift and knowledge of agriculture. If the country districts are to retain these men it must be by giving them a chance of becoming small farmers themselves by putting a stop to farms being hitched one on to another."

SCOTLAND.

DIVISION VI.

Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Kincardine, Kinross, Linlithgow, Midlothian, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Roxburgh and Selkirk.

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. Ainslie writes: "There is no difficulty in obtaining land in this district. The proprietors would be glad to let or sell land if suitable applicants could be found and a fair and reasonable price offered . . . The Aberdeen County Council advertised some years ago for applicants to take up small holdings or allotments, and very few applied. These were on investigation found undesirable." Mr. Christie (Factor, Strathdon) writing on behalf of Mr. A. Strachan, says: "Small holdings or allotments can only form a partial remedy for rural depopulation, and a poor one at the best. While they might prove successful in the immediate neighbourhood of towns or growing villages, where tradesmen and others might by the cultivation of such allotments, add to their incomes, such holdings would never have the effect of bringing the people back to the land. In upland districts, in our glens and straths, small holdings will not induce young men to return to the country . . . If it were not for the feeling of independence that the possession of a farm or croft creates, men would be far better off financially if employed as servants." Mr. Bruce holds a different opinion. He says: "I believe there is a general want of small holdings in Aberdeenshire; in proof of this I have only to mention the fact that for crofts and small farms the applicants are so numerous that the demand cannot be supplied. I am of opinion that the scarcity of such holdings has materially contributed to the decline of the agricultural population."

BANFF.—Mr. Livingstone writes: "There is great difficulty in getting small holdings or allotments, but I think sanitary laws have a good deal to do with it. New houses were demanded by inspectors where I can prove that repairs at a third of the cost would have made comfortable homes and all the people wanted at a moderate rent. I am a strong advocate of crofts, say cows-keep for labourers and some farm-servants, but then they should be at least 20 acres so that there could be work for the tenant and proper training of the family, if any."

Mr. Bruce states that allotments and very small holdings are not desired, but that holdings of 10 to 20 acres, on which a family can be brought up, ought to be encouraged.

BERWICK.—There is a great demand for holdings of 100 to 200 or 300 acres, such as a man and his family can work without much hired labour, and for these, higher rents are offered

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

than for larger holdings of the same quality. The expense entailed in making roads, putting up buildings, fences, &c., hinders any increase in the number.

Dr. Shirra Gibb considers that there is no demand for holdings under 100 to 150 acres, except in limited areas near some of the larger villages, and none at all for allotments.

ELGIN.—Mr. Muirhead states that no difficulty is experienced in obtaining land for the purposes named.

FIFE.—There is always a demand for small farms from about 50 to 100 acres, especially near populous centres. These are let at higher rents than larger farms. There is no demand for small holdings or allotments. If there were, there might be some difficulty in obtaining them, but it is not considered that this has contributed to the decline in population. Mr. Millar remarks that a small holding entails constant hard work, as the occupier cannot afford to buy improved machinery.

FORFAR.—Mr. Kydd writes: "I do not consider there would be any difficulty in obtaining land for small holdings, provided that the buildings obstacle could be got over, and I do not see that this can be arranged without State assistance. In one parish in my district, Carmyllie, there are a very large number of small holdings, but the land is poor and the climate late and cold. I am perfectly convinced that small holdings would be an immense boon to the district and to the whole country, provided these were given on good land and the difficulty mentioned were overcome. They would give an incentive to the best class of farm servants to be persevering in their work and saving in their wages, and the young persons reared on such holdings would give farmers occupying large farms a better class of farm servants. Of allotments I think nothing, as these can only be occupied by tenants doing work for outside employers part of their time, which is not obtainable in this district." Mr. Duncan states that difficulty is experienced in obtaining land for small holdings, but there is not now the same demand on account of the low price of produce.

HADDINGTON.—Mr. Shields states that no difficulty has been experienced in obtaining land when urgently required, say, for market garden purposes near towns. Mr. Hope writes: "There are practically no small holdings or allotments in this county, and never have been; no doubt if there were it would be beneficial, and would encourage men to keep on at farm work in the hope of eventually getting a small holding for themselves."

KINCARDINE.—On the whole there appears to be little or no difficulty in getting land for the purposes named, but there is great difficulty in getting the necessary buildings provided. Mr. Brown writes: "There is no doubt that if there were more small holdings, allotments, or small farms there would be a tendency for labourers to remain on the land."

KINROSS.—Mr. Tod states there is no difficulty. No one, he says, wishes to engage in land holding.

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

LINLITHGOW.—Mr. Glendinning states that there is no special demand for small holdings, unless close to big centres of population, and that this cannot, therefore, be held to have accounted for the decline.

MIDLOTHIAN.—There is said to be no demand for small holdings.

PEEBLES.—Mr. Ritchie states that, practically, small holdings cannot be got. Wealthy proprietors will not, and poor proprietors cannot supply the necessary buildings. Mr. Constable is of opinion that an increase in the number of small holdings, sufficiently large to keep a family, would be beneficial, but states that he has not heard of any demand for allotments.

PERTH.—Mr. Craig writes: "There is difficulty in getting small holdings in this part of the country. Small farms, as a rule, let well, and there is no doubt if a certain number of these were created, either on the hill or arable land, they would soon find occupants. The class of men, however, who would take these farms are not those who are anxious to get employment in towns, but the thriftier farm bailiffs, ploughmen, shepherds, and the sons of small farmers, who are at any rate likely to remain in the country. They would, however, be more likely to stick to country life if there were a prospect of farming, and especially of owning land on their own account." Mr. McDiarmid states that in his district there is no great desire for small holdings, and that in two townships the number has declined from 20 to 13 and from 8 or 9 to 2, respectively, since 1881. Mr. Hutcheson observes that there is not much demand for small holdings unless for fruit growing, &c. He considers that anything smaller than a farm employing one or two pairs of horses would be useless for growing ordinary crops.

In the case of allotments, Mr. Craig says: "They have not been a success in this quarter. The artisan or other workman holding land which is not sufficient to take up his whole time and attention has usually farmed his allotment badly and soon tired of it."

ROXBURGH.—There is said to be great difficulty in obtaining small holdings, mainly owing to the expense of providing buildings. At the same time, it is not thought that the want of either small holdings or allotments has contributed to the decline. Mr. Smith writes: "It is very desirable that there should be more small farms of not less than 100 acres. These would employ a man, his son, and two daughters. At present these small farms are limited, and those stewards and shepherds who have capital of from £500 to £1,000 are either unable to get such farms or are forced to pay exorbitant rents. There are

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

many saving families whom the small farm would place in a position of independence, and if any means could be found for increasing these small farms, I feel sure they would be found a benefit and a source of strength to the country. For holdings of a smaller size the district is unsuited. There is not a market for garden produce, and anything less in the way of tillage land than would maintain a pair of horses would be conducive to poverty rather than wealth."

SELKIRK.—Mr. Elliot writes: "I have been a member of the Small Holdings Committee of the County Council for many years, and I am not aware of a single application coming before that Committee for land either for small holdings or allotments. This, indeed, is not to be wondered at, as the agricultural labourer with a wage (including his house, garden, &c.) of 22s. a week and without any responsibilities is in a very different position from what any small holder could possibly be in the county."

Mr. Linton writes: "There are a number of small holdings in this district and a ready demand when any are vacant. At the same time the nature of the soil and distance from markets hinder them being profitable. The want of such may contribute in a small degree to the decline in agricultural population." He remarks that the expense of building stands in the way of any increase of small holdings on commercial lines. "The old style of cottage," he says, "might be put up for £15 or £20, not counting labour, whereas the present class of house, as built by the principal landowner in the district, cannot be put up under £200 or £250, the better style costing £400 or £500; and one built lately for a farm steward cost nearly £800." As regards the economic status of the small holder, Mr. Linton observes: "It seems proved by experience that from 5 to 10 acres of arable land with a few sheep besides on a hill grazing is not enough for a man with a family to live upon. Within the last fifty years, land products have declined very much in value, while wages of farm labourers have something like doubled, in the case of tradesmen nearly trebled. It is therefore impossible to expect that men in small holdings can be satisfied with the conditions which obtained forty or fifty years ago."

DIVISION VII.

Counties of Argyll, Ayr, Bute, Caithness, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Inverness, Kirkeudbright, Lanark, Orkney, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigtown.

ARGYLL.—There is said to be little demand for allotments or small holdings, and no difficulty in getting land where required. Mr. Andrew, referring particularly to Mid-Argyll, writes: "Although the demand for smaller holdings, as they at present exist, is greater than for the larger, still I do not

think that any urgency for obtaining more land for small holdings has arisen amongst the population in this district." Mr. Campbell writes: "I know of crofts unlet though the houses on the same crofts find tenants. I know of farms that cannot be let even though the owners have advertised their willingness to cut them up into small holdings. On the other hand, I know that in crofting districts there is always a certain number of cotters or squatters who desire land, but their desire is for land in the immediate vicinity of where they live." The principal difficulties in the way of the provision of further small holdings appear to be:—

(1) That unless a whole farm is taken, the remaining portion is depreciated in value, the sporting rental also is depreciated or disappears.

(2) The expense of the necessary buildings and fences, the existing buildings being more or less useless.

AYR.—There is said to be no demand for allotments. Nearly all married servants have gardens sufficiently large to satisfy their requirements. Small holdings, Mr. Hannah states, are plentiful and are keenly competed for. Mr. Sloan observes that a better class of cottage with small garden is undoubtedly required for the agricultural labourers.

CAITHNESS.—Mr. Miller writes: "There is a difficulty in obtaining small holdings, and the expense as to allotments is prohibitory, as well as the procedure. The climate and soil as well as the absence of good markets may lead to their non-adoption, except in the close neighbourhood of towns and villages, where the older men might find employment suited to them." Mr. Davidson states that allotments are not in favour, as they will not support a family and hinder the occupier from getting the chance of remunerative pay elsewhere.

DUMFRIES.—There does not appear to be any particular desire for allotments or small holdings. Mr. Waugh writes: "No applications have come before the County Council. Nevertheless, small farms are greedily wanted and taken." Dr. Gillespie writes: "I have lived in the county all my days, being now 70 years of age. Whereas for long ploughmen and cottars cultivated their gardens diligently so as to get a maximum return from them, I observe that many such gardens are now left uncultivated or cultivated in a very perfunctory manner. When small holdings (*i.e.*, of 20 acres and upwards) of a desirable class are offered to be let, there is invariably a good demand for them. As far as I know, there have been no applications for small holdings where the applicant wishes to equip them with buildings, where these are already provided the holdings are appreciated and sought after. There is a desirable gradation in the size of farms in Dumfries."

INVERNESS.—Mr. Cran writes: "There is no difficulty in obtaining small holdings in high altitudes, but few allotments

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.

are available, and the small holdings have not been a great success. What is wanted by small farmers and crofters especially, is ownership of the land they occupy." Mr. Cameron states that it is undoubtedly difficult for young men who wish to marry and settle on the West Coast to obtain land for small holdings, but adds, that with the conventional requirements of modern life there is no prospect of small tenants being able to make an adequate living at the present low prices of produce. Small holdings, he says, do well as homes from which to go in quest of work to the centres of population and industry, but will not support a family in comfort. Mr. Wilson writes: "Yes; the difficulties have been almost insurmountable. Hundreds of families applied to the four parish councils of the district, and those councils did their duty, but the Inverness County Council blocked the applications, with the result that the cottars of South Uist, Barra, and North Uist took forcible possession of the large farms, which led to the Congested Districts Board being brought into being and to the purchase of lands in Barra. The present proprietor of North Uist has done a great deal of good in settling labourers on holdings." Both the Harris proprietors, Mr. Wilson states, have been giving land to agricultural labourers for over 20 years, but this is not the case in South Uist, where not a single allotment or small holding has been obtained under the Acts, although the parish councils fought for years on behalf of the labourers.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Mr. McDowall states that small holdings could be obtained if required, but there is no demand, and the decrease of the agricultural population in his district cannot be traced to any lack of them. Mr. Biggar writes: "There is a scarcity of small holdings (from 40 to 80 acres), and such holdings command a higher rate per acre, but the additional rent does not seem to be sufficient inducement for anyone owning land to increase the number." He states that there is no demand for allotments.

LANARK.—Mr. Gilchrist (Bellshill) writes: "There has been no demand that I am aware of for small holdings or allotments, and I do not believe that either would be successful in the mining districts, as the returns would not equal the wages received for work in the other industries. The difficulty has not contributed in any degree to the decline in the agricultural population." Mr. Scott (Lesmahagow), on the other hand, states that so far as he knows there is no land available either for small holdings or allotments, and he has no doubt this has contributed to the decline. He writes: "If land could be had for small holdings accompanied by some scheme of financial assistance in the shape of loans at moderate interest, and a systematic and combined method of dealing with and marketing the produce, I believe the demand for such holdings would be great and their success assured, and that a great increase of a sturdy and healthy class of population would

ensue." Mr. Speir (Newton) writes: "Allotments are not in request in this district, but for farms giving employment for one pair of horses there are 10 or 20 applicants for every one which is vacant. At one time the merging of such farms into larger ones contributed towards the depopulation of the rural districts, but that was anterior to the period under review."

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

ORKNEY.—Mr. McLennan writes: "There are a very large number of small holdings in this county, and a very considerable number of them are owned by the occupiers. While there is no difficulty in obtaining waste land for small holdings or allotments, there is a difficulty, as a matter of course, in getting good arable land for that purpose, there not being any considerable proportion of the land occupied by tenants paying over £100 of rent in this county. The difficulty of obtaining small holdings no doubt contributed to a small extent to the decline in the agricultural population, but I will give the following statistics to compare one parish (Harray), where almost the whole land is in the occupation of small owners, with another parish (St. Andrews), where the occupiers are all tenants, the holdings in both being pretty much of the same size:—

—	Rental.	Population.		
		1881.	1891.	1901.
Harray	£ 1,731	745	735	676
St. Andrews	1,975	828	756	742

Mr. Watt states that there have been no applications for small holdings on his side of the county, though land might be obtained.

RENFREW.—Mr. Pollock writes: "There is no evident desire for small holdings in this industrial county."

ROSS AND CROMARTY.—Mr. Mackenzie states that on a neighbouring estate a number of the crofters are emigrating to Canada, and there is no demand for the vacated crofts. Mr. Reid writes: "The demand for small holdings has passed away very much in the North of Scotland. Some small holdings in the west are vacant, this being the case where £100 or £200 is required to take over the sheep-stock."

Mr. Fletcher also states that no great difficulty is experienced in obtaining land.

Small
Holdings
and
Allotments.
—

SHETLAND.—Mr. Anderson does not think there is any difficulty in obtaining land either for allotments or small holdings.

STIRLING.—Mr. Drysdale states that there is little demand for small holdings in his district, but that there would be no difficulty in getting land if there were a prospect of a man and his family making a decent living on it. No applications for allotments have been made to the county or parish councils in the district. In many cases married farm-servants are neglecting to cultivate the garden plots attached to their dwelling-houses. Mr. Malcolm writes as follows: "There is a difficulty in obtaining small holdings as there are few in the county. No small holding could be made to keep a man and family or even to pay if it was not large enough to require a pair of horses to work it. This would require, say, from 40 to 50 acres. The man would require to work the holding with the assistance of his family, and even then it would be a hard struggle. The principal difficulty in getting holdings of this size would be the house and farm buildings. A landlord might consent to break up large farms, but, say, a sum of £800 was required for the buildings, this at 5 per cent. would mean a first charge of £40 yearly. Then as most of the land here is rented about 30s. per acre, a 40-acre holding would be worth £60 yearly; adding the £40, it would mean £100 yearly rent. Another point to consider is that to stock this small holding £10 per acre is required, and few labourers ever save £400. No one could expect a labourer to want a small holding and pay £100 rent, if by going to Canada he can get 160 acres free. I know I could never advise an industrious man to stay in Scotland and slave to pay a heavy rent and as heavy taxes."

WIGTOWN.—Mr. Ralston writes: "Allotments are more numerous within recent years, and the demand for them still continues. Small holdings, at one time numerous, have been gradually absorbed by large farms. This is accounted for in some measure by landlords being unwilling to keep up expensive buildings on small places, the interest on them often swallowing more than the rent, but many small holdings have been given up through the inability of the holders to exist. The want of a number of these holdings may have some effect in contributing to the decline in population." Mr. McMaster states that no difficulty has been experienced in getting allotments. When an applicant has failed to obtain such by voluntary agreement with the proprietor, the County Council has invariably secured what was required on satisfactory terms. There has been, he states, no demand for small holdings.

4. The Census figures record the population on the 1st of April. Can you say whether the number of Labourers temporarily employed on the land at particular seasons, e.g., for corn harvest, fruit-picking, hop-picking, &c., has declined to a greater or less extent than the resident labourers during the past 10 and 20 years respectively?

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.
—

ENGLAND.

DIVISION I.

(a.) *Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Suffolk, Essex, Hertford, Middlesex and London.*

BEDFORD.—The decline in temporary labourers is stated to be quite equal to, if not greater than, that of resident labourers, owing to the great improvement of harvesting machinery.

HUNTINGDON.—Labourers temporarily employed in corn harvest have declined to a greater extent than the resident labourers, in consequence of the greater use made of machinery. The increased growth of vegetables and celery in the Ramsey district has created a greater demand for labour during the spring and autumn.

CAMBRIDGE.—In the corn-growing districts casual labour is not now required at harvest, and has consequently declined far more than the resident population. Mr. West, however, writes: "I should say that never were there so many people employed in fruit-picking and potato-lifting as at the present time."

CAMBRIDGE (ISLE OF ELY).—With the increased use of machinery the immigrant labourers have greatly declined, and Irishmen appear to have ceased to come. At the same time it is considered that the extra labour would not now be obtainable even if it were urgently required.

SUFFOLK.—Temporary labour has declined to a great extent, largely owing to the general use of self-binding reaping machines; it is now quite exceptional for a farmer to engage men for harvest work, other than those regularly employed on the land.

ESSEX.—Owing to the use of binding reapers there is practically no extra labour now employed for harvesting, and such labour has declined very much more than the resident labour. Mr. Glenny remarks that there has been abundant casual labour

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

in Essex during the last seven years, whereas previously workers were often scarce in the summer. Mr. McMillan, on the other hand, says that in his locality (Ingatestone) it is almost impossible to get extra hands other than "unfits" at special seasons and that a regular staff has to be kept all the year round.

HERTFORD.—Temporary labour has declined more than the resident labour, and few men now seek work at harvest; at the same time the introduction of machinery has lessened the need for them. Mr. Milne observes that the only time when any quantity of casual labour is required is during the potato harvest. Ten years ago the greater number required could be got from the neighbouring villages, but the extra work is now done by casual labourers who come round after the hop-picking season is over in other places and who are put up in temporary buildings for the short time the work lasts.

MIDDLESEX.—Mr. Lobjoit writes: "It has been the practice here for many years to employ women from Shropshire for the fruit-picking. They come early in June and remain until August. During the cherry season a good many men come out of Bucks, and in the summer men also come from Beds and Oxford for hoeing in the market gardens. I think all these have declined in numbers in recent years in this part of Middlesex."

(b.) *Counties of Norfolk, Lincoln and York (East Riding).*

NORFOLK.—The advent of the self-binder has caused fewer men to be required at harvest than formerly, and there are now practically no immigrant labourers.

LINCOLN.—In Holland Irishmen still come for the corn harvest, and it is not thought that any fewer hands are employed. Mr. West is of opinion that the number of labourers temporarily employed has increased rather than otherwise. Mr. Morton says that the decrease is not greater amongst temporary labourers, but that owing to the use of self-binding reapers 50 per cent. fewer men are required for harvest work.

In Lindsey there is a division of opinion. It is agreed that owing to the use of machinery far fewer hands are now required at harvest, but while Major Browne thinks temporary labour has decreased to a greater extent than resident labour, Mr. Tindall thinks the decline is nothing like so great. The extension of potato-growing has occasioned an increase of temporary labour in the summer, and more especially in October.

YORK (EAST RIDING).—Beyond turnip-hoeing, harvest, and to a small extent potato-growing, little casual labour is required; the self-binder has lessened the demand for harvesters.

DIVISION II.

(a.) *Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks and Hants.*

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

KENT.—Immigrant labour is required for —(1) corn harvest, (2) fruit-picking, (3) hop-picking.

As regards the first, the numbers have declined with the decreased area under corn, and machinery is so much used that little extra labour is required.

Fruit-picking gives more employment in proportion to the increased area under fruit.

The number of hop-pickers employed is largely dependent on the amount of the crop, which is most variable.

SURREY.—The number of temporary labourers has greatly declined, owing not only to the laying down of grass, but to the almost universal use of the self-binder. Mr. Whitley writes: "Nine years ago self-binders were rare here; now they are common; their advent seems to be another reason for stopping the sowing of land to grass, and makes it possible to so arrange that the permanent staff can manage the farms throughout the year without much temporary labour; this policy is slowly gaining ground."

SUSSEX.—The decrease of the corn area and the use of improved machinery have led to a great diminution in the number of casual labourers employed; very few Irish hands now come for the corn harvest. Mr. Drewitt thinks the decline has been much greater than amongst the ordinary farm labourers, owing to the great rise of wages in towns. Mr. Grant, on the other hand, considers that the supply of temporary labourers in proportion to the land in cultivation is about the same. Mr. Chandler thinks that, although there has been a decrease in casual labour, employment during hay-making increases four or five times, and during corn harvest twice in numbers.

BERKSHIRE.—Very few temporary labourers are now employed, except for picking fruit. The extra work at hay time and harvest is accomplished with the help of machinery by the permanent hands, who work overtime at these seasons. Mr. Lousley is of opinion that not half the labourers are now required that were needed 25 years ago.

HAMPSHIRE.—While the increasing use of machinery for haymaking and harvesting has caused a decline in casual labour, yet, on the other hand, fruit-picking employs a great many more than formerly.

(b.) *Counties of Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland, Northampton, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick.*

NOTTINGHAM.—Mr. Smith writes: "Thirty years ago numerous gangs of Irish and Derbyshire harvest men were employed, but chiefly owing to the use of reaping machines and binders

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

very few come now. Not much female labour is now employed, and that chiefly for picking green peas. At the present time I have plenty of regular labour, but there is not much surplus labour to be had." Mr. Beard, also, says that it is more difficult to obtain temporary labourers for corn and hay harvest than it is to get resident labourers.

LEICESTER.—Mr. Longwill states that fewer Irish labourers come over than was the case twenty years ago, binders and other labour-saving implements being used. Mr. Bassett thinks there has been no great change in temporary employment.

RUTLAND.—The only extra labour required is for the corn and hay harvests, and this has declined owing to the use of machinery, though probably not to a greater extent than the resident population.

NORTHAMPTON.—Casual labour is only required for the corn and hay harvests, and has declined to some extent in consequence of the increased use of machinery. Mr. Griffin states that in the Peterborough district the number of temporary labourers has declined to a greater extent than the residents.

BUCKINGHAM.—Fewer men come for the hay and corn harvests than used to be the case, the use of machinery renders them unnecessary.

OXFORD.—The general opinion is that temporary labour has declined to an even greater extent than the resident population, owing chiefly to the widespread use of machinery.

WARWICK.—It is thought that temporary labour for harvest and hay-making has decreased to as great or an even greater extent than the resident labour, owing to the use of improved machinery. Mr. Graves says: "Mowing machines and self-binders have reduced the hay and corn harvests to a mere nothing, many only going for a fortnight in fine weather." Mr. Lane, however, states that more casual labourers are employed than formerly because country-bred young men have gone to the towns, and farmers make what use they can in the busy seasons, of unskilled assistance.

DIVISION III.

(a.) *Counties of Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Wilts, Monmouth and Hereford.*

SALOP.—The decline amongst temporary labourers has apparently been greater than in the case of the resident population, chiefly owing to the increased use of improved machinery. Mr. Thursfield writes: "I used to employ 100 harvest men, now the ordinary farm labourers do it all. A

few Irish come for task or piece work. There should be more payment by results; it would keep the men on the farms more than anything else, make them more contented, and be to the advantage of the farmer."

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour

WORCESTER.—The employment of men in harvesting has probably decreased, but the number of casual labourers employed for fruit and hop-picking is believed to have increased considerably in the last ten years; most of these are women who come from the Black Country. Mr. Wheeler writes: "In the Teme Valley, between Tenbury and Stanford, about nine miles, over 3,000 strangers were employed last September in hop-picking."

GLOUCESTER.—For corn harvest few extra hands are now required, owing to the use of machinery. The hop area having decreased, fewer pickers are employed, but the labour is sought after and wages are good.

WILTSHIRE.—Improved machinery, either as a cause or a result of a diminished supply of casual labour, is now widely used. "Strappers" and Irishmen formerly taken on as extra hands have entirely disappeared. Mr. Squarey, however, remarks: "Small tradesmen, occupiers of small holdings, soldiers on leave, woodmen, and others frequently assist in getting in the corn and hay harvests, turnip-hoeing, &c. The strawberry industry temporarily employs an immense number of women and children drawn from the small towns near which the industry flourishes."

MONMOUTH.—Mr. Williams writes: "I think casual labourers of any use to farmers have declined in numbers more than the regular labourers, owing in some degree to the scarcity of cottages, all of which are caught up by the regular labourers. There is a tendency on the part of the labourer who rents his own cottage to take to casual work. Of course, we have plenty of tramps, but they rarely work more than a day. A few men brought up in rural districts who have gone to the iron and coal works have been in the habit of coming back for haytime and harvest, but they are a lessening number. Fruit is not grown so as to employ labour, except in rare instances and generally near towns; very little of the land is adapted for it. There is some fruit-picking in the orchards of North Monmouthshire which used to be done by women, but no women work now, and the boys are at school until nearly old enough to go to urban work."

HEREFORD.—Mr. Riley considers that more labourers are employed for the various harvests, but for a shorter time. Many are employed in fruit and hop-picking, the number thus engaged depends upon the size of the crops, but has probably declined less than the resident population. On stock-breeding farms very few casual labourers are now required.

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

(b.) *Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.*

SOMERSET.—The use of machinery is thought to have had a greater effect on the temporary than on the permanent labour. The migratory labourers from Devonshire and Ireland who used to come for harvesting are (according to Mr. Gibbons) never seen now; when extra labourers are required in the summer it is a matter of difficulty to obtain them.

DORSET.—Labourers temporarily employed are believed to have declined to a greater extent than the resident population, owing to the largely increased use of machinery.

DEVON.—In the north of the county few extra labourers are employed. In the south, Mr. Chamier (Exmouth) thinks that the decline has been greater, while Mr. Franklin (Cullompton) considers it has been less, in the case of temporary labour than in the resident population.

CORNWALL.—Casual labour has declined to an even greater extent than the permanent labour. Improved machinery now enables the farmers to do their harvesting with the ordinary staff. Mr. Richards writes: "Casual labourers are most difficult to obtain. Many small farmers have consequently had to make a large capital outlay on self-binders and other expensive implements."

DIVISION IV.

(a.) *Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York (North Riding) and York (West Riding).*

NORTHUMBERLAND.—The corn harvest was formerly the principal occasion of the employment of temporary labour. Now, however, owing to diminished cultivation and the introduction of the self-binder, the demand for harvesters has very largely fallen off, probably to an even greater extent than with the resident labourers. Mr. Marshall writes: "In this part of the Tyne valley, where the corn area is practically the same as it was fifty years since, 40, 50, or 60 people might at that time be seen reaping; twenty years ago two reaping machines with 20 hands were doing as much; now two binders with half-a-dozen men accomplish the same work. Perhaps (he adds) more haymen and turnip-hoers are needed."

DURHAM.—Temporary labour has declined in proportion to the smaller extent of crops grown, and possibly also on account of the use of improved machinery for harvesting, potato-digging, &c. On the other hand, it is remarked that resident labour has been so severely cut out that temporary labour may have declined either not at all or to a smaller extent than the former.

YORK (NORTH RIDING).—Temporary labour has declined probably to a greater extent than resident labour, owing to the use of improved machinery. Potato-planting and lifting employ a good many hands in some districts.

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

YORK (WEST RIDING).—Colonel Maude states that not quite so many extra hands are hired for haytime, and though some still command good, and even high, wages, there are far more inexperienced ones, who are of little use. He adds: "Formerly occasional labourers, both married and single, lived in most of our villages, and made a good living by employment at certain periods on the land, such as in lambing time, or for manure loading, haymaking, salving sheep in the autumn, relaying hedges, building or repairing walls, quarrying stones, draining, &c., but since the agricultural depression became so acute neither farmers nor landowners have had money to spare for extra work that cannot be done by the ordinary farm staff, and so these occasional men have all gradually drifted away until there is now great difficulty in getting casual labour. Mr. Thompson considers that the increased use of machinery has had a greater effect on temporary than on resident labour.

(b.) *Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby and Stafford.*

CUMBERLAND.—Mr. Watt does not think there has been very much change in the numbers temporarily employed, except where land has gone out of cultivation; he observes that with fewer "day" labourers in a district there is sometimes a difficulty in getting all the hands required for such work as hay and corn harvesting. Mr. Dobson writes: "When a large area was under cereals a considerable number of Irish labourers came for the corn harvest; now, with a smaller area and the universal use of machinery, especially the self-binder, the usual farm staff is sufficient for the work." Mr. Shanks remarks that most of the extra labour required for thinning turnips, weeding, &c., is done by school children during holidays.

WESTMORLAND.—Mr. Wakefield considers that temporary labourers have declined to a greater extent than permanent labourers, but remarks that in either case the men were for the most part resident in the neighbourhood. Mr. Punchard writes: "There has of late years been a great decline in the number of non-resident labourers who have sought work in the county during hay-time and harvest. Formerly many Irishmen used to turn up on these occasions, but now very few are seen; so much so that in one district self-binding reapers are now to be found on almost every farm."

LANCASHIRE.—The use of machinery, such as self-binders, potato-diggers, &c., is held by some to have caused a greater

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

decline amongst temporary labourers than in the resident population; other correspondents, however, hold a different opinion.

CHESHIRE.—Mr. Ravenshaw considers that temporary labourers have declined during the last twenty years to a greater extent than the resident labourers, on account of the use of machinery and implements. Mr. Beecroft writes: "I do not think there are many less labourers employed in this district during harvest. I find with the assistance of machinery that fully as many men are required as previously, the produce being moved much more quickly than in the past; this being so, it requires more men to deal with it in such ways that machinery cannot be applied." Mr. Davies writes: "The Cheshire practice is to employ Irishmen for corn harvest, potato-planting, and raising; we obtain sufficient Irish now, but, no doubt, fewer are required than 25 years ago. Only in one small area in Cheshire are any casual or itinerant fruit-pickers required."

DERBY.—Mr. Waite observes that in 1873 the Irish labourers who came to the country for harvest were six times more numerous than at the present time.

STAFFORD.—Mr. Carrington Smith writes: "There is a considerable decline in the number of harvest labourers, chiefly Irish. First the scythe gave way to the mowing machine and afterwards the sickle to the reaping machine. By the help of other machinery and by the increase of manual work done by the farmer's family, both the larger breadth of hay and the smaller breadth of corn are gathered mainly by the permanent staff." Captain Levett states that it is difficult to get casual labour, and that the Irish harvester has almost entirely disappeared during the last few years.

WALES.

DIVISION V.

ANGLESEY.—The number of men required for harvest is stated to be much smaller owing to the use of mowing machines and reapers.

BRECON.—It is not considered that labourers temporarily employed have declined to any greater extent than the others during the past twenty-years.

CARDIGAN.—Temporary labourers are now but little employed, and have probably declined to a greater extent than the resident labourers. Some who have obtained suitable

cottages for their families work at the coal mines for eleven months and spend the other month with their families, helping in the harvest.

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

CARMARTHEN.—Temporary labour is thought to have declined similarly to resident labour. Mr. Drummond observes: "Outside labour was always short, the farmers depending on each other's help when necessary."

CARNAEVON.—Mr. Roberts writes: "The number of labourers temporarily employed for the corn harvest declined rapidly from 1881 to 1891 and steadily from the latter date to 1898, and since then up to the last harvest they could not be got locally at any price. Now the farmers are dependent upon the men living in the cottages on the farms, or the servants engaged for six months who are single and get their board and lodging on the premises."

DENBIGH.—The decline is believed to have been greater in the case of temporary labourers. Very few are now required except for corn harvest.

GLAMORGAN.—Extra labourers when wanted are very difficult to obtain. Very few, however, are now employed, the hay and corn crops being secured with the aid of machinery. Mr. Forrest writes: "Each binder saves eight men and each trusser four; there is also the hay-loader, pitch-fork, and swath-turner, all have lessened the demand for casual labour at harvest time. Labour on root-hoeing, too, is less."

MERIONETH.—Labourers for corn harvest have declined, as a good deal of land has been laid down to grass.

MONTGOMERY.—Temporary labourers have probably declined in about the same ratio as the resident population. These occasional hands for hay and corn harvest, turnip-hoeing, &c., have been displaced by the more frequent use of machinery.

PEMBROKE.—The use of implements and machinery, especially in hay and corn harvest, has become so general, that these are now looked upon as little more than the ordinary work of the farm, and require but a small amount of outside help. The decline in temporary labourers is stated to have been much less during the last ten years than during the previous ten.

SCOTLAND.

DIVISION VI.

Temporary and Migratory Labour. *Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Kincardine, Kinross, Linlithgow, Midlothian, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Roxburgh and Selkirk.*

ABERDEEN.—Labourers employed at harvest have declined, partly owing to the high rate of wages and partly to a lessened demand owing to the use of machinery.

BANFF.—Mr. Livingstone writes: "There has been less difficulty in getting harvest hands for the past year or two, but fewer are required now since binders are used, and it depends, too, whether or not the harvest is likely to commence before the herring fishery is finished."

BERWICK.—It is stated that the number of Irish harvest labourers has greatly declined, owing to the perfecting of harvest machinery.

ELGIN.—The introduction of self-binding reapers has apparently had the effect of reducing the number of labourers temporarily employed during harvest.

FIFE.—The operations for which temporary labour is required are the corn and potato harvests, turnip-thinning, and turnip-pulling. As there is a scarcity of female labour, the number of those temporarily employed at these times may, it is thought, be slightly increased, but the seasons are now very much shortened. Owing to greatly improved machinery, the harvest is finished in shorter time with about the same number of people as ten years ago, but a good many fewer than twenty years ago.

FORFAR.—Mr. Duncan states that harvest labourers have declined to an even greater extent than resident labourers. Mr. Hume, also, says that the number has declined enormously during the last 10 or 20 years. "Nowadays," he writes, "the use of self-binders, &c., has practically done away with at least three-fourths of the extra staff that used to be required for harvesting operations."

HADDINGTON.—Mr. Shields considers that casual labourers for harvest have decreased to a greater extent than the resident labourers during the last ten years, but that prior to that date the reverse was the case. Mr. Hope observes that many Irishmen are employed at turnip-thinning and potato-lifting.

KINCARDINE.—Owing to the use of harvesting machinery, it is considered that temporary labour has declined to quite as great an extent as the resident population during the past twenty years.

KINROSS.—Mr. Tod writes: "Labour at harvest time has declined to a much greater extent than during the rest of the year. Formerly, farmers had to employ many extra hands during harvest; now, by the aid of binders, they can save the crop with the ordinary farm hands."

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

LINLITHGOW.—Labourers temporarily employed are stated to have declined to a greater extent than the resident labourers. Mr. Glendinning writes: "Self-delivery reapers and binders and labour-saving implements account for a considerable reduction of women workers and casual labourers; whilst the system largely adopted of selling potatoes by the acre to merchants, who lift them with their own staff, accounts for a further reduction."

MIDLOTHIAN.—Owing to the use of improved machinery a good deal of labour is now dispensed with at harvest. There is great difficulty in obtaining women workers, but their place is now largely taken by Irishmen who come to thin or single turnips and remain on to the end of harvest or, in some cases, for potato-lifting.

PEEBLES.—Mr. Ritchie thinks that the decline in temporary labour is about the same as in the resident population and has been occasioned by the use of machinery and the high wages expected.

PERTH.—Mr. Craig writes: "The number of labourers temporarily employed on the land at particular seasons has probably declined to a greater extent than the resident labourers, as there are now very few extra hands engaged for corn harvest, owing to the advent of the reaper and binder. Only in the case of fruit-picking is there any likelihood of an increase of temporary labour, and whilst this industry is growing in Perthshire considerably, there is only a small amount of land under fruit in this district."

ROXBURGH.—Owing to the introduction of machinery, notably self-binders, labourers temporarily employed for corn harvest have decreased very greatly.

SELKIRK.—The decrease in labourers temporarily employed for harvest, turnips, &c., is, in Mr. Elliot's view, much greater than in the resident population. He considers the number employed to be 75 or 80 per cent. less than was the case twenty-five years ago, and the decline in the employment of drainers, dykers, &c., is, he states, even more marked. Mr. Linton, who has lived in Peebles and Selkirk for 70 years and farmed for fifty, writes: "Men temporarily employed are nearly all from Ireland, and the season begins in June and July for turnip-work, followed by harvest in August or September, and finishing with turnips in November and December. I expect there is little change going on in regard to the numbers employed on turnip work, but in harvest, the use of self-binders has decreased the number employed."

DIVISION VII.

Counties of Argyll, Ayr, Bute, Caithness, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Inverness, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Orkney, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigtown.

ARGYLL.—Temporary labour has declined to as great or even greater an extent than resident labour. Mr. Hunter says: "Corn harvest and potato-lifting are the only special seasons here when extra hands are employed." Mr. Martin writes: "In Islay there is never any difficulty in obtaining occasional harvest labourers or peat-cutters, as so many are employed in the distilleries here during the distilling season and are available at harvest time for farm work." Mr. Campbell writes: "Temporary labour is mostly supplied by members of the families of resident labourers or small holders. It is difficult to get labour for corn harvest, as the touring and shooting season is on at the same time."

AYR.—Mr. Hannah writes: "Large numbers of occasional workers used to be got for farm work during busy seasons (harvest, potato-planting, gathering, weeding, &c.) from towns and villages. These engaged themselves at other times in handloom weaving and such like work. These industries are now out of date, and in consequence such labourers are now non-existent. They have been replaced by tramps and people on the road and out of employment. Large numbers of Irish labourers, principally girls, come over in June and are engaged during the three succeeding months. I think the decline is more among temporary and occasional workers than among yearly and half-yearly servants."

CAITHNESS.—Mr. Davidson writes: "Corn harvest is the principal season when we require extra labourers. There is now not half the number required that was needed twenty years ago. There is much less land in corn crop now and much more work is being done by machinery." Mr. Miller observes: "The women who were formerly employed in summer are now all taken up with the herring fishery and the men by general summer labour; the chief local industry however (raising and preparing flagstones) is now less prosperous, and employs fewer men."

DUMFRIES.—Temporary labourers have declined to a greater extent than the resident labour. Mr. Moffat states that they have almost entirely disappeared. Dr. Gillespie writes: "Since reaping machines were introduced there have been comparatively few outsiders coming into the county at particular seasons to assist in the work of the farm."

INVERNESS.—The labourers temporarily employed have decreased in consequence of the diminution in the cultivated area and the use of improved machinery. Mr. Malcolm considers the decline to be greater than in the resident population.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Mr. Biggar states that the number of labourers temporarily employed for harvest or hay-making has decreased to a greater extent than the resident labourers. Mr. McDowall, however, considers that the decline in the former is less, the explanation being that in many cases where land has been laid down to grass, Irish labourers are employed for six weeks during hay harvest and then paid off to find employment, probably at the corn harvest. Formerly, when a large staff was kept on the farm, the whole work of the farm was carried on by the regular hands.

Temporary
and
Migratory
Labour.

LANARK.—In the fruit-growing districts the number of labourers temporarily employed at particular seasons has increased, but in the agricultural districts the number has decreased to a greater extent than the resident labourers. Mr. Speir states that in his district the employment of temporary labourers in hay time and harvest has almost ceased.

ORKNEY.—Temporary harvest labourers have declined to some extent, owing to the use of machinery, in particular the self-binder. Mr. Watt states that farmers have experienced a great want of female servants; these were largely employed twenty years ago for singling turnips and hay and harvest work, but now it is almost impossible to obtain their services. "They prefer," he says, "indoor service of some kind, and if they cannot get it in the country they go to Kirkwall, Stromness, or south as domestic servants, dressmakers, shop girls, and quite a number are school teachers." New machinery and implements have to some extent enabled farmers to do without them.

RENFREW.—The decline is stated to be about the same as amongst resident labourers. In some instances fruit-picking affords more temporary employment.

SHETLAND.—Mr. Anderson writes: "There is very little variation in the number of labourers temporarily employed for corn harvest from that for the whole season, because there is no great extent of arable land on any of the larger farms. Fruit and hop-picking are unknown here, and temporary labourers have not declined more than resident labourers."

STIRLING.—The decrease amongst labourers temporarily employed for harvest has been greater than in the case of resident labourers, especially during the last ten years, on account of diminished cultivation and the general use of self-binders and other machinery.

WIGTOWN.—Harvest is the chief time when extra labourers are employed, and fewer are now required, there being more land in grass. Those employed are mostly Irish. Mr. McMaster considers that the decline is greater than in the resident labourers. "Great numbers," he writes, "used to come over from the North of Ireland for corn harvest; now there is scarcely one for ten who came 20 or 30 years ago."

5. To what extent have alterations in the system of farming in your district affected the demand for labour? Has any particular agricultural industry such as fruit-farming, vegetable-growing, poultry rearing, &c., tended to check the decline in the agricultural population?

ENGLAND.

DIVISION I.

(a.) *Counties of Bedford, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Suffolk, Essex Hertford, Middlesex and London.*

BEDFORD.—In the neighbourhood of Biggleswade, market-gardening has certainly checked the decline.

HUNTINGDON.—In the Fens the growth of vegetables is becoming the predominating feature, and creates a demand for extra labour at certain seasons. Poultry-rearing is also on the increase, and greater interest would be taken in it if the price of eggs were more remunerative and greater facilities given for carriage to the towns.

CAMBRIDGE.—On some arable farms artificial grass is left down for two, three or more years, and the labour is proportionately reduced. Most of the county is unsuited for fruit farming and vegetable growing, but where these are carried on there has been a check to the decline in population, in fact, labour has to be imported to a large extent as the local supply is inadequate.

CAMBRIDGE (I. OF ELY).—Potato, celery, and vegetable-growing have increased the demand for labour for nearly the whole of the year, and this has tended to check the migration which has been so marked in districts where the soil is not adapted for this kind of agriculture. Women have almost ceased to work in the fields, except on special occasions.

SUFFOLK.—On the one hand the changes referred to on p. 87 have tended to decrease the demand for labour; on the other hand, there is a demand for good horsemen and milkers. Milk and vegetable production are increasing near towns, and in such cases the decline has been checked; many farmers now send their own carts into the towns and retail from door to door. Poultry rearing is extending, but involves little increase of employment.

ESSEX.—Much land has been laid to grass, thus decreasing the labourers but increasing the demand for stockmen. For example, Wallasea Island, which employed 60 men (with wives and children) to grow corn, now employs only eight men to look

after stock. The culture of fruit and vegetables pushes farther out as the suburbs of London extend, and growers pay high wages to competent men. Mr. Rankin remarks that the improved methods of farming in the neighbourhood have increased rather than decreased the demand for labour.

Changes in
System
and Special
Industries.

HERTFORD.—Mr. Milne writes, with special reference to the Hitchin district: "Potato growing and dairy farming have been on the increase for a number of years wherever the land is suitable, and is within two or three miles of a railway station; on such farms more workmen are employed, but taking the district as a whole the number of farm labourers would be rather less than 20 years ago; labour-saving machinery is used as much as possible. There is very little fruit growing or market gardening in this district." In the Sawbridge-worth district, several large industries have arisen, such as nurseries for grapes, tomatoes, and flowers, and poultry rearing is considerably on the increase. Mr. Rae writes: "The large increase of intensive farming under glass, and also fruit growing, has increased the demand for labour enormously. Wages have increased quite 25 per cent. during the past 15 years, and the supply of labour has been drawn principally from the more rural parts of the county."

MIDDLESEX AND LONDON. [*See under Question 2, p. 33.*]

(b.) *Counties of Norfolk, Lincoln and York (East Riding).*

NORFOLK.—Beyond the laying of land to grass, no particular alteration in the system of farming is reported as affecting the demand for labour.

LINCOLN.—In the Holland Division there are many small occupiers who get a living in growing flowers, fruit, and vegetables, and this has greatly, if not altogether checked the decline in agricultural labour. Over the greater part of the county, however, there appears to have been little development in this direction.

YORK (E. RIDING).—Mr. Pearson writes: "Fruit and vegetable growing and poultry rearing are not on the increase, though the latter has much improved."

DIVISION II.

(a.) *Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Berks and Hants.*

KENT.—Poultry rearing is but little practised in the county. Fruit growing has extended, and has in a slight degree tended to check the decline in population. In some districts vegetable growing requires considerable labour at certain periods, but hardly affects the agricultural labourers. In Sheppey the land is too wet and cold for poultry farming or market gardening to any extent.

SURREY.—The increased attention paid to fruit, poultry, &c., has in Mr. Whitley's opinion tended somewhat to stem the tide of depopulation, and should do so to a greater extent in future. He adds: "Fruit farming and vegetable growing employ more labour; some remarkable cases of success in this direction are to be seen, also a considerable number of failures. Poultry rearing is too popular with the uninitiated, there being many cases of failure owing to the fascination that it has for the extownsmen; there is still a considerable demand for any place that can be called by a stretch of the imagination a 'Poultry farm.' While poultry rearing alone is generally a failure, the best farmers are adding to their income by attention to it."

SUSSEX.—In some districts, particularly in East Sussex, fruit, flower, and vegetable growing and poultry rearing have increased. Mr. Haviland writes: "Undoubtedly the chicken-fattening industry has done a great deal to check the decline in the agricultural population in Heathfield, Waldron, and Warbleton, and, in a less degree, in the adjoining parishes." Mr. Pullen-Burry writes: "There has been up to the last year or two an immense increase in market gardening and fruit culture under glass, but this has now ceased, chiefly owing to foreign competition, and in a measure to over-production. The earlier produce from abroad undermines our markets so that instead of beginning at a high price we begin at a low and gradually rise as the foreigner is cut out; this has lowered the value of our early and protected lands. There used to be many onions grown hereabouts, but cheap foreign labour and low carriage have quite settled the trade. Instead of any increase of 'la petite culture' in this part of the country, there is taking place a throwing up of land, which, I think, will become more marked as years pass under present conditions. Market-garden rents have gone down these last few years by 30 per cent."

In the west of the county the conditions appear to be unfavourable to development in these directions. Mr. Grant writes: "The arable land in this district generally is stiff sandy clay, and is adapted for growing wheat and nothing else. Grass and roots even when well grown have little feeding value. There has been no increase in any rural industry in the district except the production of milk for the London market, but a corn-growing farm converted to a milk-producing one would need fewer labourers than before."

BERKSHIRE.—Potato growing has increased in places, but no particular industry has arisen that would tend to check the decline in population.

HAMPSHIRE.—Mr. Perkins writes: "Within the past 20 years there has arisen a flourishing strawberry industry in the district between Southampton and Portsmouth; with it are associated vegetable growing and fruit farming. Women and children turn out in enormous numbers to pick strawberries."

The general opinion obtains that the district is peculiarly suited to strawberry culture, but I am not aware that any one has tried growing them commercially elsewhere in the county. My impression is that the new industry has not withdrawn labourers from ordinary agriculture, but that a new class has been attracted from the towns. A good many people with a little capital, and some quite 'well-to-do' people have come to the neighbourhood to engage in the industry."

(b.) *Counties of Nottingham, Leicester, Rutland, Northampton, Buckingham, Oxford and Warwick.*

NOTTINGHAM.—More vegetables are grown, which leads to increased casual employment. Poultry rearing is believed to be increasing, and between Southwell and the Trent it is stated that fruit growing has extended considerably.

LEICESTER.—Mr. Bassett writes: "Leicestershire is neither a fruit-farming nor a vegetable-growing county; poultry rearing and egg producing have increased, but rather as an addendum than as a special industry."

NORTHAMPTON.—Generally speaking, no new agricultural industries appear to have been established, but in the Soke of Peterboro' it is stated that potato growing finds occasional employment for a large number of men, women, and children.

OXFORD.—No new industry appears to have arisen which would be likely to check the decline in the agricultural population.

WARWICK.—Mr. Graves writes: "Farmers in my district are different from what they used to be, and are men of very little capital; many have little stock in the land, they sell off hay and straw, consequently the land is getting poorer each year." Mr. Lane writes: "Nearer Evesham and Worcester where fruit and vegetables can be profitably grown on account of the more suitable climate, there certainly is more demand for labour, and wages in market gardens are made more attractive."

DIVISION III.

(a.) *Counties of Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Wilts, Monmouth and Hereford.*

SALOP.—Mr. Lee (Ellesmere) writes: "In this district there has been a rapid growth of the dairy industry, especially Cheshire cheese making, principally brought about by enterprising tenants laying down the strong unworkable arable land; this change has to a small extent lessened the demand for labour except for men capable of attending to stock and willing to milk; such men are scarce and command good wages." Fruit, vegetable, and poultry farming are only carried on in a small way and generally in isolated areas.

Mr. Lander says: "Vegetable growing is on the increase in this district and gives more employment at certain seasons."

WORCESTER.—Mr. Wheeler (Tenbury) writes: "In my immediate neighbourhood where fruit and hop growing have considerably increased, the demand for labour has also increased, and at times in the summer it is difficult to get a sufficient supply, the casual tramp being seldom of any use. But on the poorer land where hop growing is somewhat dying out and fruit is not cultivated, very little labour is required."

GLOUCESTER.—The very poor thin arable and also the stiff clay lands are not cultivated, and carry very little stock; some are not well-fenced or watered and thus find little employment for labour. Pea picking and fruit and vegetable growing have increased.

WILTSHIRE.—In some districts dairying has extended, increasing the demand for milkers. Mr. Smith considers that scarcity of labour stimulated the invention of machinery which has now to some extent permanently displaced hand labour. Mr. Stevens states that poultry farming is certainly on the increase but does not affect the labourer in any way. Mr. Squarey writes: "The passing of the poorer and heavy clay land into more or less inferior pasturage, and the adoption of machinery in every direction have undoubtedly lessened the demand for manual labour. To a moderate extent, fruit farming, poultry rearing, and vegetable growing have tended to keep a certain number of the more energetic and capable men on the land, where they have had an opportunity of getting small holdings."

MONMOUTH.—There is a good demand for hay in the mineral districts, so that more haymaking is done. There has been a greater tendency amongst farmers to grow potatoes, cabbage, fruit, &c., but the change has not been sufficiently marked to affect the population of the rural districts.

HEREFORD.—The soil and climate are extremely favourable for fruit growing, and good markets are within easy reach; in the districts where fruit or hops are cultivated the demand for labour has not declined so much as in those parts where corn was formerly grown. Mr. Riley writes: "I have some 96 acres in fruit of various kinds, and some neighbouring farmers are now growing strawberries, which largely increases the demand for labour. In my own case, with intensive farming, I spent about 30s. an acre in labour, but on my fruit farm I spend nearly £10 an acre."

(b.) *Counties of Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.*

SOMERSET.—Referring to the effect of machinery in reducing the demand for labour, Mr. Berry writes: "The harvester does more thoroughly with 3 horses, 1 man, and 1 boy the same work

that used to be done by 2 horses, 6 men, and 1 boy, and in other things the same has occurred." Of the turning of tillage into grass land, he writes: "One shepherd looks after the stock on an area which probably gave work to four or five families when under the plough; this is a great loss to the country. At present there seems sufficient labour for requirements." Flax cultivation, which used to find winter employment for many, has almost entirely died out, and no fresh industries appear to have arisen which would tend to check the decline in population.

DORSET.—Fruit farming, vegetable growing, &c., appear to have made very little progress. Mr. Duke writes: "Neither fruit farming, vegetable growing, or poultry rearing has been taken up to a sufficient extent to influence the population in this district. The system of farming hereabouts, beyond the laying of arable land to grass, has altered but little during my experience of 35 years, and I think the character of the soil and climate will militate against any beneficial change."

DEVON.—No particular agricultural industry appears to have been developed.

CORNWALL.—Mr. Thomas writes: "I should think that the alteration in the general system of farming, and the use of up-to-date machinery, have affected the demand for labour to the extent of at least 20 per cent." Mr. Richards remarks that special crops, such as early potatoes, have decreased owing to the scarcity of labourers. Mr. Menhinick states that poultry raising for egg production has greatly increased, but chiefly as an extra item in the farm account. No particular industry appears to have arisen.

DIVISION IV.

(a.) *Counties of Northumberland, Durham, York (North Riding) and York (West Riding).*

NORTHUMBERLAND.—No special industries have arisen to check the decline in population. A few acres of strawberries have been planted near towns.

DURHAM.—Mr. Kent writes: "No special industry has been grafted into farming in this district, but more attention is paid to small products, such as poultry, fruit, &c., worked in conjunction with the ordinary farm routine." In some parts a much larger quantity of potatoes and turnips is grown than formerly.

YORK (NORTH RIDING).—Mr. King states that in his district 20 years ago cheese making and stock rearing were the principal work on the farms; at the present time a great many farmers are selling their milk, and, consequently, not rearing

calves. Poultry rearing is receiving increased attention, and in many cases is very remunerative, but more still might be done in this direction.

(b.) *Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derby and Stafford.*

CUMBERLAND.—Fruit farming, vegetable growing, &c., are carried on to so small an extent that they can supply practically no check to the decline in population. Referring to the effect of converting arable land to grass on the demand for labour, Mr. Watt remarks that for the last few years there has been a slight inclination to increase the corn-growing area.

WESTMORLAND.—The principal developments of farming during late years have been in the direction of supplying milk, poultry, eggs, &c., to the towns, but these are to be looked on more as aids to income than as employing additional hands. Poultry farming is stated to have developed principally in the hands of cottagers. Fruit and vegetable growing have not increased to any appreciable extent.

LANCASHIRE.—Dairy farming, particularly for milk production, is constantly on the increase, but fruit farming, &c., have not developed to a sufficient extent to have any effect on the decline in population.

CHESHIRE.—Mr. Davies suggests that the changes in the system of farming indicated under Question 2, may have resulted from the scarcity of labour rather than contributed to it. Although fruit growing and poultry-rearing are extending, it is not thought that they have done so sufficiently to have materially increased the demand for labour.

DERBY.—There is stated to have been practically no change in the system of farming during the last 20 years, the production of milk being the principal occupation of nine-tenths of Derbyshire farmers. The area of permanent grass has not increased; in fact, Mr. Waite writes: "I have known more grass land broken up to grow roots for dairy cattle than arable land laid down for pasture." Milk production superseded cheese making about 1869-74, and is now the principal industry on the large majority of Derbyshire farms.

STAFFORD.—Mr. Carrington Smith, writing of the changes in farming during the last 50 years, says: "In 1858 this farm of 242 acres was looked upon as a wheat-growing farm with a small herd of Longhorn cows used for cheesemaking. At that time there were tyings in the cowshed for 18 head; now there are tyings for 62 head. Open fold yards have been abandoned, and the open fields are now used with considerable advantage to the land. There are now in mid-winter 20 head in the open

fields, besides the 62 head tied up. Fifty years ago the ordinary staff were a waggoner, a cowman, and a waggoner's boy, hired by the year with board and lodging. For the waggoner and cowman the money wages for the year were £13 to £15, and for the boy, £3 to £5. Two labourers at 12s. per week, having a daily allowance of two quarts of beer, completed the staff, except in harvest and on thrashing days, when Irishmen and other extra hands were put on. Now I have four labourers in cottages close to the farm, and two young men, lodged out but boarded in, at from £18 to £20. Put roughly, the permanent staff is six men instead of four men and a boy, and the wages are about 40 per cent. higher. I have now a labourer who has been continuously employed here for 48 years. In the winter of 1858 his day wage was 2s. with rent and rates to pay. Now his minimum is 2s. 6d. per day with a good cottage free to him of rent and rates. No deduction is made for bad weather or for a day's illness."

WALES.

DIVISION V.

CARDIGAN.—Of the general style of farming, Mr. Jones writes: "There is less neatness to be seen than in years gone by. Hedging, ditching, and draining are neglected, mainly owing to deficient capital. Good building, high farming, breeding high-class cattle, rearing horses of true type, style and action, afford employment for a larger number of labourers than the badly-cultivated farm and ill-bred stock." He observes that more attention has been paid to poultry rearing during the last 30 years, but mainly as an auxiliary to farming; the industry, however, is hampered by the lack of adequate railway communication.

CARMARTHEN.—Mr. Rees writes: "Less attention is being paid to the corn crops and more to the meadows and pastures; farmers are, as far as possible, curtailing their arable land." He also observes that whereas less than ten years ago the sickle was still much in vogue in the district, it has now been almost universally replaced by binders, reapers, &c. He adds, that a few nurserymen in the district combine a little farming with their industry, and that a number of men, especially in spring-time, are engaged at the work who otherwise would doubtless have migrated to the coalfields.

CARNARVON.—Mr. Roberts states that no particular agricultural industry has been started in the district, but the County Council have voted a sum of money towards the experimental growth of sugar-beet.

DENBIGH.—Mr. Gomer Roberts considers that the changes in farming noted under Question 2 (see p. 47) have reduced the demand for labour by 20 to 30 per cent. No particular industry, he states, has been started during the last 25 years.

GLAMORGAN.—Mr. Forrest writes: "Formerly large flocks of sheep were fed out during the winter, and this employed a lot of labour—feeding the sheep and clearing the roots for them. Fruit farming, vegetable growing, and poultry rearing have tended to bring labour back to the land." Another correspondent does not consider that any alteration in the system of farming has affected the demand for labour in his district.

PEMBROKE.—Mr. Richards writes: "There are no special branches of agricultural industry carried on in this district. For the last 50 years there has been no important alteration in the system of farming generally which would materially affect the demand for labour; corn growing and grazing have been about equal, and the regular labour employed upon the farm is very little, if any, less than formerly." Mr. Yorke writes: "None of the minor industries named are prosecuted on a large scale. All the cottagers grow a few fowls in the old-fashioned way. They sell to travelling higgles; altogether a large number of fowls are collected weekly in this way. I assume this minor industry tends to keep some of the cottagers from leaving."

SCOTLAND.

DIVISION VI.

Counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Berwick, Clackmannan, Elgin, Fife, Forfar, Haddington, Kincardine, Kinross, Linlithgow, Midlothian, Nairn, Peebles, Perth, Roxburgh and Selkirk.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. Bruce writes: "On my farm there used to be ten men and one woman employed. Now I have only six men in all. I have withdrawn upwards of 100 acres from cultivation and laid it down in permanent pasture for sheep, and I consider that every 100 acres laid down in grass dispenses with about $3\frac{1}{2}$ farm workers. There is no fruit farming, &c., in this locality."

BANFF.—Mr. Livingstone remarks that poor land is going out of cultivation, and must continue to do so at present prices. Improving land by trenching and draining to any extent is out of the question. None of the particular industries mentioned have affected the agricultural population in his district.

ELGIN.—The extension of the area under grass has lessened the demand for labour, and no new agricultural industry has arisen which would tend to check the decline.

FIFE.—The laying of land to grass has been the main factor in reducing the demand for labour. Near towns, dairy farming has slightly increased the numbers on these particular farms during the last ten years. Very little fruit growing is done in Fife except in one part in the north, and almost no market-gardening, so that these industries have had no influence in checking the decline in the agricultural population.

HADDINGTON.—There has been no material alteration in the system of farming over the county generally. In the higher districts there is more grass and less tillage than 20 years ago. "Fruit farming," says Mr. Shields, "has almost disappeared, also vegetable growing by spade husbandry, but vegetable growing by horse and plough tillage has largely increased. The crops chiefly grown are leeks, onions, parsley, turnips, peas, artichokes, potatoes, and cabbage plants on a large scale. Poultry rearing may also have tended to check the decline in the agricultural population, but not to any appreciable extent." Mr. Hope observes that more potatoes are grown in his district than there were 20 years ago, and that consequently there is quite as much demand for labour. In some districts there are complaints that sufficient labour cannot be obtained.

KINROSS.—Mr. Tod writes: "A blacksmith near me tells me that 20 pairs of horses fewer are now shod at his smithy than was the case 20 years ago, thus showing that 20 fewer ploughmen are employed within a radius of three miles. No particular agricultural industry has tended to check the decline."

LINLITHGOW.—Mr. Glendinning observes that the industries mentioned have had no material effect on the population; those desirous of rearing poultry or growing vegetables have no difficulty in obtaining sublets on reasonable terms from agricultural tenants, but the demand is very limited, though it would be increased were buildings freely provided.

MIDLOTHIAN.—The principal alteration has been the reduction of the arable area. Mr. Davidson (Corstorphine) writes: "In my immediate neighbourhood there is a good deal of market gardening which provides labour for a considerable number of workers. None of the other industries are practised to any extent."

PEEBLES.—Mr. Ritchie writes: "Less land is in cultivation now, as expenses of labour are gradually rising. On many farms where four pairs of horses used to be kept, there are now only two pairs, and, of course, other workers decrease in the same proportion. Female workers, either for inside or outside work, can scarcely be got even at the high rate of wages now prevailing."

PERTH.—Mr. Craig writes: "The greater demand for milk has given rise to the employment of more labour throughout

parts of this district. Thirty years ago there were very few dairies employed in the milk trade in Upper Strathearn, whereas now between 20 and 30 farmers send milk into Crieff, Courrie, and Perth every day from this district." Mr. Hutcheson writes: "In some districts in Perthshire, notably Blairgowrie, market gardening, especially fruit growing, has largely extended."

SELKIRK.—Mr. Elliot states that several cases of fruit farming, vegetable growing, and poultry rearing have been tried in the county, and have been given up. The only industry that has helped in any degree is dairying, which has increased of late years.

DIVISION VII.

Counties of Argyll, Ayr, Bute, Caithness, Dumbarton, Dumfries, Inverness, Kirkcudbright, Lanark, Orkney, Renfrew, Ross and Cromarty, Shetland, Stirling, Sutherland and Wigtown.

ARGYLL.—Mr. Hunter writes: "There has been very little change in the system of farming during the last 20 years, except in more land being put under grass. No particular agricultural industries have been started here, distance from markets being very much against the likelihood of their being made profitable." Mr. Campbell writes: "There is no opening, with our climate, for small industries such as vegetable or fruit culture. Poultry, except as an adjunct, is in no way profitable. Our only return is in raising store sheep and cattle, with summer dairying near tourist resorts or shooting lodges."

AYR.—Mr. Hannah states that potato growing for the early market has increased very much during the last 20 years, and this has tended to make the demand for labour greater during March, May, June, July, and August and less during the rest of the year.

CAITHNESS.—Mr. Miller states that the alteration of the rotation of crops from a six-course with three corn crops to a five-course with only two corn crops, and then to a six-course with three grasses, is resulting in increased production of crops at less cost, and has decreased the number of labourers required, especially ploughmen and shepherds; at the same time the permanent pasture is receiving more attention in the way of manuring.

DUMFRIES.—Mr. Moffat writes: "I would put this question the other way. The system of farming has had to be altered for want of sufficient labour."

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—There has been nothing to check the decrease in the rural population, except, perhaps, the increase of dairy farming, for which regular labour is a necessity.

LANARK.—Mr. Gilchrist considers that the altered system of farming in his district requires between 10 and 20 per cent. fewer labourers than formerly. No particular industry, he states, has tended to check the decline, with the exception of fruit growing, near Lanark. Mr. Scott writes: "Fruit farming, especially strawberry growing, has increased enormously in certain parts of the county, and, I think, must have made up for any decrease in the purely agricultural population. Of late years a considerable number of people have acquired by lease a few acres of land for strawberries and other small-fruit culture, with the very best results. Poultry rearing is not practised to any great extent in the county, but I believe would be considerably developed could land be got easily and at a moderate price." Mr. Speir writes: "Here, as elsewhere near large towns, farmers are gradually reducing the area of their ordinary farm crops and going more and more into the production of vegetables and milk. These farmers are gradually employing more labour than they ever did. My own farm may be mentioned as a case in point. Here the sum expended annually on labour has gradually increased even with one-third of the farm now in pasture, until at the present time it amounts to £5 per acre, or about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the amount of the rent of the land under these crops. There has been a gradual decrease of arable crops in this district for 30 years, and a corresponding increase of pasture for cows. Where no part of the land has been devoted to the growth of vegetables, this has caused some decrease in the rural population."

ORKNEY.—Mr. Watt states that the system of farming on both large and small holdings is much the same as it was 20 years ago, and that permanent grass has not been laid down to any great extent. Fruit farming and vegetable growing are not practised in the county.

RENFREW.—Mr. Pollock writes: "Diminished cultivation has reduced the demand for labour by about one-fourth. Fruit farming and vegetable growing have to some extent checked the reduction, but poultry farming has not been successful in this direction."

SHETLAND.—Mr. Anderson writes: "There have been no alterations in the system of farming in this district to affect the demand for labour; any scarcity of labour would be caused by the demand for hands to prosecute the fishing."

Mr. Fletcher considers that the demand for labour has not been affected to an appreciable extent by any change in the system of farming, and states that he cannot ascertain that any particular agricultural industry has tended to check the decline in his district.

STIRLING.—Mr. Malcolm estimates that under the present system of farming at least one-fourth less labour is required than formerly. Mr. Drysdale writes: "Two distinct attempts

Changes in
System
and Special
Industries.

at poultry farming have been tried in this district, but without success. Poultry rearing and egg production are pursued by all the smaller farmers, but their system and methods are capable of considerable improvement. Fruit and vegetable growing have been vigorously attempted by practical men in the district, but they have not succeeded, being seriously handicapped in getting their produce into the market, where they have to compete with rivals producing under more favourable conditions." A system of combination and co-operation, Mr. Drysdale concludes, would be a boon in the district.

WIGROWN.—Mr. Ralston writes: "There has been little alteration in the system of farming other than that already mentioned (Question 2, p. 61). The Machars, or Eastern Division, is chiefly devoted to the feeding of cattle and sheep; the Rhins, or Western Division, to dairying, with the feeding of sheep on turnips, and wintering young cattle. These methods apply for the last fifty years, or longer." Mr. McMaster writes: "The only respect in which the system of farming has changed in this district is that dairying has greatly increased. The production of beef has given place to that of milk, for which the damp, mild climate seems to be specially suitable. On most of the larger holdings cheese-making is carried on; the small farmers adopt the handier, though perhaps less profitable, plan of sending their milk daily to the creameries, three of which have been started in this district within the last twenty years. I do not know that this change has directly affected the demand for labour, but, as the milking is done mainly by the ploughmen's wives and daughters, it means $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours' absence from their homes morning and evening for seven days a week at a time when they are most needed there, and is a serious disadvantage to their families, and a piece of drudgery from which they are glad to escape as soon as they can."

APPENDIX A.

TABLES.

TABLE I.—NUMBER of FARMERS and GRAZIERS, FARM BAILIFFS, 1881, 1891 and 1901 respectively

COUNTIES, ETC.	Farmers and Graziers.				Farm Bailiffs—Foremen.			
	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1891- 1901.	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1891- 1901.
	1881.	1891.	1901.		1881.	1891.	1901.	
GREAT BRITAIN	279,120	277,942	277,094	-1,432	22,895	21,453	27,317	+4,422
ENGLAND	188,544	187,930	188,909	+ 365	18,425	17,189	21,412	+2,987
WALES	35,399	35,680	35,390	- 9	952	1,016	1,250	+ 298
SCOTLAND	55,183	54,332	53,395	-1,788	3,518	3,248	4,655	+1,137
ENGLAND.								
Bedford	1,301	1,270	1,224	- 77	177	161	217	+ 40
Huntingdon	867	942	984	+ 117	127	106	200	+ 73
Cambridge	3,317	3,501	3,372	+ 55	391	355	599	+ 208
Suffolk	4,351	3,985	4,046	+ 305	934	908	990	+ 56
Essex	3,303	3,193	3,767	+ 484	1,012	867	975	- 37
Hertford	1,403	1,380	1,234	- 189	391	356	407	+ 16
Middlesex	698	623	533	- 165	183	164	162	- 21
London	583	268	340	- 43	64	37	34	- 30
Total Division I.a	15,623	15,192	15,500	- 123	3,279	2,954	3,594	+ 305
Norfolk	5,777	5,648	6,045	+ 268	1,025	1,033	1,189	+ 164
Lincoln	10,048	9,939	11,547	+1,299	1,161	1,441	2,097	+ 936
York, E. R.	3,649	3,593	3,839	+ 190	595	431	1,116	+ 531
Total Division I.b.	19,474	19,180	21,231	+1,757	2,771	2,925	4,402	+1,631
Total Division I. ..	35,097	34,372	36,731	+1,634	6,050	5,879	7,996	+1,936
Kent	4,344	4,116	4,749	+ 405	1,329	1,263	1,348	+ 19
Surrey	1,350	1,226	1,337	- 13	485	458	532	+ 47
Sussex	5,599	5,514	5,945	+ 356	796	767	847	+ 51
Berke	1,621	1,566	1,254	- 367	417	406	374	- 43
Hants	5,164	3,143	3,542	+ 378	597	531	531	- 66
Total Division II.a	14,068	13,687	14,827	+ 759	3,624	3,405	3,632	+ 8
Nottingham	3,706	3,699	3,374	- 332	426	413	421	- 5
Leicester	3,293	3,571	3,526	+ 243	234	232	269	+ 36
Rutland	534	546	431	- 103	32	35	40	+ 7
Northampton	2,328	2,440	2,601	+ 273	266	294	323	+ 37
Buckingham	1,717	1,636	2,145	+ 428	222	226	306	+ 84
Oxford	1,782	1,651	1,796	+ 14	261	269	268	- 25
Warwick	5,333	3,436	3,129	- 204	393	342	346	- 47
Total Division II.b	16,683	17,379	17,002	+ 319	1,884	1,811	1,973	+ 89
Total Division II. ..	30,751	30,966	31,829	+1,078	5,508	5,216	5,605	+ 97
Salop	5,568	5,829	5,378	- 188	458	385	370	- 88
Worcester	2,729	2,617	3,013	+ 284	335	308	343	+ 8
Gloucester	3,607	3,785	4,259	+ 652	368	362	462	+ 94
Wilt	3,011	3,275	3,367	+ 356	378	326	370	- 8
Monmouth	2,511	2,731	2,471	- 40	232	204	188	- 44
Hereford	3,228	3,346	3,609	+ 381	304	263	219	- 55
Total Division III.a	20,652	21,583	22,097	+1,445	2,075	1,868	1,982	- 93
Somerset	7,580	7,700	7,242	- 338	337	365	377	- 10
Dorset	2,340	2,643	2,821	+ 481	266	242	272	+ 8
Devon	9,754	9,636	10,229	+ 475	402	355	557	+ 155
Cornwall	8,387	6,447	6,481	+ 94	193	126	385	+ 192
Total Division III.b	28,061	28,426	28,773	+ 712	1,248	1,090	1,591	+ 343
Total Division III. ..	48,713	50,009	50,870	+2,157	3,323	2,958	3,573	+ 250
Northumberland	3,048	3,333	3,252	+ 204	363	316	406	+ 43
Durham	3,710	3,887	3,416	- 294	304	210	300	- 4
York, N. R.	6,790	6,913	7,532	+ 742	483	347	616	+ 133
York, W. R.	17,008	16,512	15,011	-1,997	747	723	1,045	+ 298
Total Division IV a	30,556	30,645	29,211	-1,345	1,897	1,596	2,367	+ 470
Cumberland	5,156	5,300	5,232	+ 76	150	131	192	+ 42
Westmorland	2,539	2,590	2,470	- 119	81	68	97	+ 16
Lancaster	16,448	14,956	13,570	-2,878	590	529	589	- 1
Chester	7,141	7,135	6,884	- 307	272	267	380	+ 108
Derby	5,820	5,629	5,999	+ 179	161	185	252	+ 91
Stafford	6,273	6,328	6,163	- 110	393	360	371	- 22
Total Division IV.b	43,427	41,938	40,266	-3,156	1,947	1,540	1,881	+ 234
Total Division IV. ..	73,983	72,583	69,479	-4,504	3,544	3,136	4,248	+ 704

**SHEPHERDS and AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS as returned at the Census of
in each COUNTY of GREAT BRITAIN.**

Shepherds.				Agricultural Labourers— Farm Servants.				COUNTIES, ETC.
Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.	
1881.	1891.	1901.		1881.	1891.	1901.		
33,125	31,686	35,022	+ 1,897	983,919	866,546	689,292	- 294,627	GREAT BRITAIN.
22,014	20,666	24,120	+ 2,106	802,288	716,809	561,136	- 241,152	ENGLAND.
830	907	1,246	+ 416	45,665	42,525	34,566	- 11,089	WALES.
10,281	10,113	9,656	- 625	135,966	107,412	93,590	- 42,376	SCOTLAND.
ENGLAND.								
318	242	321	+ 3	14,828	13,519	9,225	- 5,603	Bedford.
166	136	160	- 8	7,068	6,804	5,517	- 1,551	Huntingdon.
581	526	536	- 45	22,419	22,173	16,579	- 5,840	Cambridge.
769	774	1,051	+ 282	36,225	34,498	27,462	- 8,763	Suffolk.
436	429	649	+ 213	38,380	35,210	29,673	- 8,707	Essex.
525	492	465	- 60	17,055	15,885	10,228	- 6,827	Hertford.
60	43	32	- 28	6,599	5,820	3,894	- 2,705	Middlesex.
25	20	7	- 18	1,766	1,197	828	- 938	London.
2,880	2,662	3,221	+ 341	144,340	135,106	103,406	- 40,934	Total Division La.
1,122	987	1,241	+ 119	41,067	40,448	33,848	- 7,219	Norfolk.
1,593	1,335	1,522	- 71	43,047	41,215	34,919	- 8,128	Lincoln.
669	618	1,115	+ 446	15,630	13,902	12,314	- 3,316	York, E. R.
3,384	2,940	3,878	+ 494	99,744	95,563	81,081	- 18,663	Total Division Lb.
6,264	5,602	7,099	+ 835	244,084	230,669	184,487	- 59,597	Total Division I.
953	959	1,081	+ 128	40,048	37,371	30,885	- 9,163	Kent.
290	298	292	+ 2	14,058	12,781	9,963	- 4,095	Surrey.
964	989	980	+ 16	28,926	26,183	19,547	- 9,379	Sussex.
980	841	655	- 325	19,800	16,814	9,871	- 9,929	Berks.
1,481	1,299	1,273	- 208	25,477	22,538	17,320	- 8,157	Hants.
4,668	4,386	4,281	- 387	128,309	115,687	87,583	- 40,723	Total Division IIa.
298	279	296	- 2	13,605	12,563	8,962	- 4,643	Nottingham.
513	488	519	+ 9	12,965	10,807	7,695	- 5,270	Leicester.
160	135	115	- 45	2,532	1,968	1,511	- 1,021	Rutland.
834	758	918	+ 84	19,505	16,990	11,701	- 7,804	Northampton.
394	371	539	+ 142	13,468	12,410	10,423	- 3,045	Buckingham.
823	765	951	+ 128	17,751	15,974	10,523	- 7,228	Oxford.
588	599	522	- 66	17,461	14,802	10,329	- 7,132	Warwick.
3,610	3,395	3,857	+ 247	97,287	84,617	61,144	- 36,143	Total Division IIb.
8,278	7,781	8,138	- 140	225,596	200,304	148,730	- 76,866	Total Division II.
325	381	498	+ 173	18,848	16,848	12,165	- 6,683	Salop.
247	211	296	+ 49	14,857	12,704	10,962	- 3,895	Worcester.
688	626	844	+ 156	19,800	15,916	13,319	- 6,481	Gloucester.
1,277	1,231	1,355	+ 78	23,435	19,662	15,732	- 7,763	Wilts.
111	131	136	+ 25	5,001	4,283	3,016	- 1,985	Monmouth.
229	252	381	+ 152	11,576	9,456	8,374	- 3,202	Hereford.
2,877	2,832	3,510	+ 633	93,577	78,869	63,568	- 30,009	Total Division IIa.
544	503	620	+ 76	23,141	22,805	17,234	- 10,907	Somerset.
759	716	746	- 13	15,009	12,986	10,293	- 4,716	Dorset.
310	293	339	+ 29	30,478	26,117	20,210	- 10,268	Devon.
73	65	92	+ 19	16,684	13,531	10,066	- 6,618	Corwall.
1,686	1,577	1,797	+ 111	90,312	75,439	57,803	- 32,509	Total Division IIIb.
4,563	4,409	5,307	+ 744	183,889	154,308	121,371	- 62,518	Total Division III.
1,274	1,225	1,261	- 13	11,710	10,757	7,990	- 3,720	Northumberland.
117	125	143	+ 28	7,857	7,026	5,480	- 2,377	Durham.
390	334	585	+ 195	15,534	13,252	10,979	- 4,555	York, N. R.
332	368	569	+ 237	30,097	25,982	19,470	- 11,227	York, W. R.
2,113	2,102	2,558	+ 445	65,798	56,317	43,919	- 21,879	Total Division IVa.
209	213	323	+ 117	9,638	8,461	6,832	- 3,066	Cumberland.
77	87	108	+ 31	3,186	2,786	2,115	- 1,071	Westmorland.
115	99	115	..	28,295	25,497	20,581	- 7,714	Lancaster.
74	68	82	+ 8	17,445	16,818	14,539	- 2,906	Chester.
65	47	90	+ 25	8,013	6,683	7,243	- 770	Derby.
256	258	297	+ 41	16,344	14,466	11,519	- 4,825	Stafford.
796	772	1,018	+ 222	82,921	75,011	62,820	- 20,292	Total Division IVb.
2,909	2,874	3,578	+ 667	148,719	131,328	106,548	- 42,171	Total Division IV.

(Continued on page 116.)

TABLE I.—*continued*.—NUMBER of FARMERS and GRAZIERS, FARM
Census of 1881, 1891 and 1901 respectively

COUNTIES, ETC.	Farmers and Graziers.				Farm Bailiffs—Foremen.			
	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.
	1881.	1891.	1901.		1881.	1891.	1901.	
WALES.								
Anglesey	1,756	1,787	2,493	+ 737	29	26	87	+ 58
Brecon	2,139	2,216	1,934	- 205	86	82	120	+ 34
Cardigan	5,571	5,456	3,543	- 2,028	64	55	39	- 25
Carmarthen	4,449	4,501	5,022	+ 1,173	65	89	63	- 2
Carmarvon	3,574	3,526	3,171	- 403	68	107	138	+ 70
Denbigh	3,123	3,181	3,527	+ 404	137	126	123	- 14
Flint	786	840	1,679	+ 893	53	41	75	+ 22
Glamorgan	3,263	3,317	2,931	- 332	177	213	196	+ 19
Merioneth	2,888	2,867	2,044	- 844	52	58	66	+ 14
Montgomery	3,821	3,824	3,451	- 373	133	121	200	+ 67
Pembroke	2,927	3,039	3,484	+ 557	44	49	39	- 5
Radnor	1,099	1,126	1,511	+ 412	41	49	104	+ 60
Total Division V...	35,399	35,680	35,390	- 9	952	1,016	1,250	+ 298
SCOTLAND.								
Aberdeen	8,702	7,859	8,060	- 642	351	347	692	+ 341
Banff	2,597	2,570	2,131	- 466	95	67	194	+ 99
Berwick	497	494	516	+ 19	193	187	235	+ 42
Clackmannan	69	111	98	+ 29	18	11	17	- 1
Elgin or Moray	1,362	1,210	1,116	- 246	104	92	162	+ 58
Fife	1,113	1,529	1,175	+ 62	150	93	224	+ 74
Forfar	1,678	1,606	1,619	- 59	188	220	414	+ 226
Haddington	264	245	296	+ 32	151	184	214	+ 63
Kincardine	1,274	1,029	1,157	- 117	76	82	150	+ 74
Kinross	173	185	181	+ 8	8	13	17	+ 9
Linlithgow	342	310	317	- 25	45	35	35	- 10
Midlothian	519	619	585	+ 66	154	148	188	+ 34
Nairn	259	288	268	+ 7	22	25	41	+ 19
Peebles	189	198	202	+ 13	52	49	51	- 1
Perth	2,779	2,512	2,474	- 305	253	257	309	+ 56
Roxburgh	584	609	608	+ 24	163	187	223	+ 60
Selkirk	113	120	116	+ 3	30	25	30	..
Total Division VI.	22,514	21,464	20,917	- 1,597	2,053	2,021	3,196	+ 1,143
Argyll	2,804	2,297	2,112	- 492	153	141	161	+ 8
Ayr	2,556	2,370	2,439	- 117	105	94	134	+ 29
Bute	482	477	471	- 11	4	6	14	+ 10
Caithness	2,051	2,223	2,127	+ 76	115	68	94	- 21
Dumbarton	383	351	404	+ 21	27	29	3	- 24
Dumfries	1,564	1,546	1,656	+ 92	96	91	93	- 3
Inverness	5,035	5,906	5,270	+ 235	194	184	214	+ 20
Kirkcudbright	984	1,017	988	+ 4	79	87	93	+ 14
Lanark	2,170	2,187	2,111	- 59	139	122	138	- 1
Orkney	2,610	3,097	2,922	+ 112	93	51	80	- 13
Renfrew	813	832	751	- 82	40	33	42	+ 2
Ross and Oromarty	5,219	5,086	5,551	+ 332	199	168	181	- 18
Shetland	2,016	1,593	1,794	- 222	8	10	7	- 1
Stirling	968	923	897	- 69	64	57	67	+ 3
Sutherland	2,004	2,094	2,082	+ 78	77	58	52	- 25
Wigtown	1,012	870	903	- 109	72	48	88	+ 14
Total Division VII.	32,689	32,869	32,478	- 191	1,465	1,227	1,459	- 8

BAILIFFS, SHEPHERDS and AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS as returned at the
in each COUNTY of GREAT BRITAIN.

Shepherds.				Agricultural Labourers— Farm Servants.				COUNTIES, ETC.		
Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.	Number returned in			Inc. + Dec. - 1881- 1901.			
1881.	1891.	1901.		1881.	1891.	1901.				
WALES.										
1	5	29	+	28	2,315	2,587	3,289	+	974	Anglesey.
147	136	160	+	13	2,692	2,538	1,702	-	980	Brecon.
131	112	112	-	19	5,831	5,154	2,638	-	3,193	Cardigan.
20	27	50	+	30	4,199	3,800	3,567	-	612	Carmarthen.
53	73	104	+	51	4,862	4,931	3,285	-	1,577	Carnarvon.
80	88	120	+	40	5,106	4,787	4,318	-	790	Denbigh.
19	14	36	+	17	1,197	1,074	2,303	+	1,106	Flint.
98	105	169	+	71	4,770	4,235	3,455	-	1,315	Glamorgan.
84	133	141	+	57	3,061	3,168	1,759	-	1,302	Merioneth.
105	122	154	+	49	5,372	4,591	3,292	-	2,080	Montgomery.
16	23	41	+	25	4,608	4,140	3,510	-	1,098	Pembroke.
76	69	130	+	54	1,652	1,520	1,450	-	202	Radnor.
830	907	1,246	+	416	45,665	42,525	34,566	-	11,099	Total Division V.
SCOTLAND.										
381	553	459	+	78	15,341	14,009	12,088	-	3,253	Aberdeen.
116	150	110	-	6	5,687	3,766	3,396	-	2,291	Banff.
418	391	397	-	21	5,072	4,277	3,725	-	1,347	Berwick.
15	17	21	+	6	332	322	287	-	35	Clackmannan.
186	190	193	+	7	3,581	2,458	2,175	-	1,416	Elgin or Moray.
214	334	286	+	72	7,929	6,707	5,439	-	2,490	Fife.
323	308	348	+	25	6,066	6,207	5,408	-	1,258	Forfar.
224	236	225	+	1	5,183	4,264	3,747	-	1,416	Haddington.
78	109	128	+	50	3,292	2,789	2,551	-	741	Kincairdine.
46	41	42	+	4	562	423	423	-	139	Kinross.
32	40	33	+	1	1,568	1,169	1,162	-	406	Linlithgow.
238	234	254	+	18	4,741	4,017	3,441	-	1,302	Midlothian.
82	69	96	+	14	582	835	550	-	32	Nairn.
232	217	211	-	21	798	750	635	-	163	Peebles.
801	802	796	-	5	9,978	6,141	5,439	-	4,539	Perth.
706	829	698	-	8	3,882	3,561	3,067	-	815	Roxburgh.
244	210	231	-	13	613	505	432	-	181	Selkirk.
4,336	4,530	4,528	+	192	75,799	62,000	53,975	-	21,824	Total Division VI.
1,221	1,033	945	-	276	6,054	3,606	3,332	-	2,722	Argyll.
397	385	394	-	3	6,681	5,222	4,918	-	1,763	Ayr.
47	47	47	-	..	842	574	584	-	258	Bute.
231	222	178	-	53	2,954	2,219	2,004	-	950	Caithness.
88	91	95	+	8	1,760	1,197	1,120	-	640	Dumbarton.
676	649	634	-	42	4,851	3,983	3,644	-	1,207	Dumfries.
941	979	780	-	161	5,638	4,248	3,131	-	2,507	Inverness.
507	482	485	-	22	3,196	2,878	2,366	-	830	Kirkcudbright.
280	296	286	+	6	6,657	4,986	5,015	-	1,642	Lanark.
27	23	27	+	..	2,517	1,657	1,772	-	745	Orkney.
45	35	49	+	4	2,701	2,331	2,111	-	590	Renfrew.
689	577	491	-	178	6,736	5,170	3,240	-	3,496	Ross and Cromarty.
54	57	47	-	7	1,016	466	240	-	776	Shetland.
156	176	174	+	18	2,800	2,359	2,146	-	654	Stirling.
426	316	265	-	159	1,653	839	636	-	1,017	Sutherland.
180	215	227	+	47	4,111	3,644	3,356	-	755	Wigtown.
5,945	5,583	5,128	-	817	60,167	45,409	39,615	-	20,552	Total Division VII.

TABLE II.—ACREAGE of ARABLE LAND and PERMANENT GRASS with
in each COUNTY and DIVISION of GREAT BRITAIN as

COUNTIES, ETC.	Arable Land.					
	1881.		1891.		1901.	
	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.
GREAT BRITAIN ..	17,568,115	54·5	16,484,864	50·1	15,590,196	48·1
ENGLAND	13,008,112	52·7	12,028,226	47·9	11,236,592	45·5
WALES	939,550	34·8	870,354	30·3	881,897	31·2
SCOTLAND	3,590,453	75·4	3,581,079	72·8	3,471,907	70·9
ENGLAND.						
Bedford	177,550	68·5	181,756	62·4	152,975	59·5
Huntingdon	145,798	70·0	133,386	63·1	123,080	59·0
Cambridge	398,363	62·5	361,523	77·3	374,687	78·3
Suffolk	813,943	78·7	594,355	78·7	575,104	75·8
Essex	629,937	75·7	584,922	71·3	529,557	68·2
Hertford	238,181	70·3	225,765	68·2	210,801	63·5
Middlesex	34,684	29·8	31,079	22·4	26,829	27·0
London	..	..	..	..	3,002	26·4
Total Division I.a ..	2,238,456	74·2	2,123,206	70·2	1,996,135	67·5
Norfolk	825,288	76·1	802,021	73·5	779,326	73·0
Lincoln	1,058,254	70·6	1,050,960	67·6	1,017,587	67·1
York, E.R.	464,749	73·2	466,392	69·7	460,662	68·5
Total Division I.b ..	2,378,291	73·0	2,299,393	70·0	2,257,775	68·3
Total Division I. ..	4,616,747	73·5	4,422,599	70·1	4,253,910	68·5
Kent	418,136	56·1	388,423	51·1	329,016	44·1
Surrey	173,467	58·0	145,168	49·1	120,081	43·5
Sussex	393,987	53·9	321,967	47·0	268,041	40·2
Berks	250,895	66·6	220,778	58·7	193,551	53·1
Hants	508,564	71·9	461,897	64·6	422,209	59·7
Total Division II.a ..	1,716,089	61·2	1,538,253	51·3	1,392,898	48·3
Nottingham	278,374	61·4	246,945	57·3	238,296	53·2
Leicester	156,129	32·9	125,870	26·6	116,046	24·2
Rutland	41,989	48·5	36,607	42·0	34,209	39·5
Northampton	263,902	47·1	224,116	40·0	203,969	36·4
Buckingham	230,412	49·6	174,469	43·2	155,473	39·0
Oxford	266,807	64·4	237,768	57·3	215,825	62·4
Warwick	213,866	43·5	174,484	35·2	159,177	32·2
Total Division II.b ..	1,423,379	49·3	1,220,256	42·3	1,122,495	39·0
Total Division II. ..	3,139,468	55·2	2,758,512	48·2	2,455,393	43·8
Salop	285,453	41·8	275,214	38·0	256,852	35·7
Worcester	187,922	47·1	164,149	40·3	148,568	38·6
Gloucester	326,801	49·0	283,194	43·5	261,922	39·6
Wilts	401,477	53·0	353,082	46·5	308,242	41·8
Monmouth	69,323	23·5	54,923	22·4	45,821	18·9
Hereford	184,940	41·6	161,491	37·0	148,806	33·2
Total Division III.a ..	1,465,916	45·7	1,298,059	40·1	1,166,209	36·4
Somerset	256,159	30·1	221,529	25·5	196,141	23·0
Dorset	129,672	45·7	198,183	40·3	182,928	38·0
Devon	655,517	54·5	585,442	48·2	564,051	46·7
Cornwall	363,553	65·1	374,634	62·2	391,434	59·6
Total Division III.b ..	1,476,901	48·1	1,379,788	43·4	1,304,554	41·4
Total Division III. ..	2,942,817	48·0	2,677,847	41·7	2,470,783	38·9
Northumberland ..	283,607	40·4	252,881	34·8	213,215	30·1
Durham	186,833	44·7	170,577	39·1	156,089	35·6
York, N.R.	391,175	46·2	382,663	41·9	345,365	39·8
York, W.R.	422,854	35·6	366,159	31·6	360,035	30·9
Total Division IV.a ..	1,284,469	40·7	1,172,290	36·1	1,083,704	33·8
Cumberland	252,445	44·0	251,788	39·3	233,945	40·2
Westmorland	44,521	17·9	44,261	15·3	40,181	16·2
Lancaster	227,589	28·9	237,431	28·6	245,885	29·9
Chester	174,556	32·5	180,302	33·3	186,799	36·7
Derby	120,558	23·5	100,273	19·8	90,061	18·2
Stafford	204,942	34·0	182,933	30·2	185,981	27·8
Total Division IV.b ..	1,024,811	31·4	996,978	29·1	972,822	29·7
Total Division IV. ..	2,308,080	38·0	2,169,268	32·5	2,056,526	31·7

the PERCENTAGE of each in the TOTAL AREA under CROPS and GRASS returned on the 4th June in 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Permanent Grass.						COUNTIES, ETC.
1881.		1891.		1901.		
Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	
14,643,397	45.5	16,433,850	49.9	16,827,249	51.9	GREAT BRITAIN.
11,655,826	47.3	13,085,117	52.1	13,457,660	54.5	ENGLAND.
1,815,413	65.2	2,012,432	69.7	1,941,365	68.8	WALES.
1,172,169	24.6	1,336,301	27.2	1,428,224	28.1	SCOTLAND.
81,621	31.5	97,316	37.6	104,069	40.5	ENGLAND.
62,399	30.0	77,851	36.9	85,644	41.0	Bedford.
84,526	17.5	108,866	22.2	116,361	23.7	Huntingdon.
165,734	21.3	180,614	23.3	183,431	24.2	Cambridge.
202,048	24.3	239,265	28.7	269,940	33.8	Suffolk.
100,866	29.7	115,339	33.8	120,830	36.5	Essex.
81,749	70.2	81,255	77.6	72,487	73.0	Hertford.
..	..	..	..	8,360	73.6	Middlesex.
778,943	25.8	900,505	28.8	961,112	32.5	London.
259,788	23.9	238,511	26.5	288,515	27.0	Total Division I.a.
440,422	29.4	493,597	32.4	498,186	32.9	Norfolk.
181,218	26.8	203,001	30.3	211,378	31.5	Lincoln.
881,428	27.0	985,109	30.0	999,080	30.7	York, E.R.
1,680,371	26.5	1,885,614	29.9	1,960,192	31.5	Total Division I.b.
327,079	43.9	371,342	48.9	416,333	56.9	Total Division I.
125,746	42.0	150,649	50.9	155,968	66.5	Kent.
311,246	46.1	362,936	53.0	398,704	69.8	Surrey.
125,679	33.4	155,301	41.3	171,188	46.9	Sussex.
199,103	28.1	252,728	35.4	284,847	40.3	Berks.
1,088,853	38.8	1,292,956	45.7	1,427,040	51.7	Hants.
175,319	36.6	205,353	42.7	209,330	46.8	Total Division II.a.
317,869	67.1	347,182	73.4	359,810	75.8	Nottingham.
44,675	51.5	50,619	58.0	52,307	60.5	Leicester.
295,883	52.9	336,557	60.0	356,851	63.6	Rutland.
203,261	50.4	229,279	56.8	243,940	61.0	Northampton.
148,799	35.6	177,518	42.7	196,092	47.6	Buckingham.
277,703	56.5	321,235	64.8	335,600	67.8	Oxford.
1,463,509	50.7	1,667,743	57.7	1,753,980	61.0	Warwick.
2,552,362	44.8	2,960,699	61.8	3,181,020	56.4	Total Division II.b.
411,528	58.2	449,471	62.0	461,792	64.3	Total Division II.
211,464	52.9	242,843	59.7	253,914	63.4	Salop.
328,557	50.1	372,464	56.5	400,016	60.4	Worcester.
355,925	47.0	405,433	53.5	426,724	58.2	Gloucester.
174,042	71.5	196,615	77.6	196,789	61.1	Wilts.
260,810	58.5	280,090	63.0	299,490	66.8	Monmouth.
1,742,396	54.3	1,940,916	59.9	2,038,725	63.6	Hereford.
598,158	69.9	647,411	74.5	658,078	77.0	Total Division III.a.
267,848	54.9	293,687	59.7	299,021	62.0	Somerset.
539,409	45.5	628,273	51.8	644,948	53.3	Dorset.
195,204	34.9	227,264	37.8	245,090	40.4	Devon.
1,591,819	51.9	1,796,655	56.6	1,846,137	58.6	Cornwall.
3,334,015	53.1	3,737,571	58.3	3,884,862	61.1	Total Division III.b.
418,674	59.6	472,811	65.2	494,647	69.9	Total Division III.
231,108	55.3	265,744	60.9	283,133	64.4	Northumberland.
455,317	53.8	502,092	58.1	521,624	60.2	Durham.
766,095	64.4	836,011	68.4	827,143	69.1	York, N.R.
1,871,094	59.3	2,075,658	63.9	2,125,547	66.2	York, W.R.
321,631	56.0	380,608	60.7	347,741	59.8	Total Division IV.a.
204,485	82.1	245,961	84.7	208,621	83.8	Cumberland.
580,143	71.1	593,836	71.4	578,301	70.1	Westmorland.
362,201	67.5	361,017	66.7	338,297	63.3	Lancaster.
391,776	78.5	412,320	80.4	403,646	81.8	Chester.
397,747	66.0	422,334	69.8	430,533	72.2	Derby.
2,237,983	68.6	2,425,575	70.9	2,306,039	70.3	Stafford.
4,109,077	64.0	4,601,233	67.5	4,431,586	68.3	Total Division IV.b.
						Total Division IV

(Continued on page 120.)

TABLE II.—continued.—ACREAGE of ARABLE LAND and PERMANENT GRASS in each COUNTY and DIVISION of GREAT BRITAIN

COUNTIES, ETC.	Arable Land.					
	1881.		1891.		1901.	
	A.cres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	A.cres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	A.cres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.
WALES.						
Anglesey	80,850	41'2	89,239	46'1	77,719	50'9
Brecon	61,140	30'4	51,819	25'3	48,157	23'7
Cardigan	134,842	48'4	111,395	39'6	112,100	41'2
Cardmarthen	118,944	27'5	98,336	22'1	97,211	22'0
Carmarvon	62,620	33'4	55,185	28'1	64,006	35'2
Denbigh	113,299	43'0	103,735	37'9	112,349	42'1
Flint	56,435	43'7	51,639	40'3	52,060	41'0
Glamorgan	82,272	29'8	64,313	22'7	61,689	22'6
Merioneth	36,804	24'0	33,630	20'0	35,865	23'5
Montgomery	92,495	36'1	87,704	32'1	79,893	29'1
Pembroke	104,873	34'5	107,663	33'7	99,549	31'8
Radnor	44,967	28'9	41,701	24'6	41,089	25'2
Total Division V.	969,550	34'8	875,359	30'3	881,697	31'2
SCOTLAND.						
Aberdeen	577,328	95'5	582,755	94'2	597,996	94'8
Baaff	158,451	94'5	157,408	92'7	150,860	94'0
Berwick	157,497	81'0	161,778	77'7	147,932	77'3
Clackmannan	11,212	71'2	9,779	61'5	8,866	58'9
Elgin or Moray	99,615	94'7	93,050	91'7	92,553	91'2
Fife	196,786	79'5	193,684	72'3	179,526	70'3
Forfar	228,701	90'3	231,999	87'4	221,973	88'6
Haddington	100,547	88'2	93,213	82'8	92,484	82'7
Kincardine	114,109	94'6	108,792	88'6	110,865	92'0
Kinross	22,359	71'1	18,873	58'5	22,437	63'4
Linlithgow	37,985	64'1	39,735	66'9	37,780	64'4
Midlothian	91,467	67'8	90,872	63'7	85,954	61'3
Nairn	24,210	91'8	22,946	88'7	23,920	92'4
Peebles	29,884	70'5	27,273	63'8	29,701	60'0
Perth	280,965	76'5	254,072	72'3	233,796	69'0
Roxburgh	137,888	76'9	127,637	69'0	119,588	65'7
Selkirk	16,201	69'8	17,265	61'1	17,026	56'3
Total Division VI.	2,285,005	84'8	2,201,293	81'2	2,173,009	80'8
Argyll						
Argyll	80,498	50'1	59,778	44'6	58,763	41'4
Ayr	175,039	55'1	191,349	59'9	182,671	60'6
Bute	16,489	60'8	17,238	87'1	16,161	82'3
Caithness	90,394	75'8	82,767	75'9	84,068	74'4
Dumbarton	28,552	61'2	27,869	53'8	30,300	58'8
Dumfries	146,400	62'7	153,286	58'9	147,361	56'7
Inverness	88,513	66'7	89,553	59'7	86,742	58'3
Kirkcudbright	121,766	67'9	116,729	61'2	105,237	54'8
Laoark	154,370	54'2	158,001	1'2	144,810	56'8
Orkney	87,649	80'8	88,392	79'9	90,002	84'1
Renfrew	44,672	47'6	46,634	49'7	43,878	48'0
Ross and Cromarty	114,232	86'9	112,019	81'5	111,795	79'2
Shetland	16,628	28'5	16,108	26'8	16,143	27'1
Stirling	66,090	57'9	72,210	60'8	64,300	55'9
Sutherland	24,271	78'5	22,714	72'5	22,917	70'0
Wigtown	120,465	82'3	124,941	81'4	113,780	73'6
Total Division VII.	1,325,448	63'4	1,379,780	62'6	1,298,898	58'8

GRASS with the PERCENTAGE of each in the TOTAL AREA under CROPS and as returned on the 4th June in 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Permanent Grass.						COUNTIES, ETC.
1881.		1891.		1901.		
Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	Acres.	% of Total Area under Crops and Grass.	
WALES.						
86,698	58'8	80,936	53'9	75,023	49'1	Anglesey.
140,054	69'6	152,644	74'7	155,405	70'3	Brecon.
143,749	51'6	189,627	60'4	159,872	58'8	Cardigan.
313,967	72'5	347,251	77'9	344,952	78'0	Carmarthen.
124,742	66'6	141,250	71'9	117,940	64'8	Carnarvon.
150,135	57'0	169,882	62'1	154,641	57'9	Denbigh.
72,672	56'3	76,641	59'7	74,838	59'0	Flint.
193,665	70'2	218,437	77'3	211,111	77'4	Glamorgan.
116,473	76'0	130,731	80'0	117,069	76'5	Merioneth.
163,375	63'9	185,125	67'9	194,616	70'9	Montgomery.
199,108	65'5	212,192	66'3	213,633	68'2	Pembroke.
110,775	71'1	127,916	76'4	122,265	74'8	Radnor.
1,815,413	65'2	2,012,432	69'7	1,941,365	68'8	Total Division V.
SCOTLAND.						
27,406	4'5	35,945	5'8	33,019	5'2	Aberdeen.
9,258	5'5	12,367	7'3	9,665	6'0	Banff.
36,916	19'0	43,584	22'3	43,428	22'7	Berwick.
4,546	28'8	6,132	38'6	8,421	42'0	Blackmarnan.
5,611	5'3	8,396	8'3	8,942	8'8	Elgin or Moray.
50,793	20'5	70,354	27'7	75,920	29'7	Fife.
24,602	9'7	31,916	12'6	28,480	11'4	Forfar.
16,043	13'8	19,403	17'2	19,289	17'3	Haddington.
6,522	5'4	14,012	11'4	9,617	8'0	Kincardine.
9,100	25'9	13,492	41'5	12,935	37'6	Kinross.
21,289	35'9	19,634	33'1	20,878	36'6	Linlithgow.
44,532	32'2	51,894	36'3	45,712	34'7	Midlothian.
2,149	8'2	2,932	11'3	1,966	7'6	Nairn.
12,433	29'5	15,470	36'2	19,782	40'0	Peebles.
84,823	24'5	97,137	27'7	104,860	31'0	Perth.
43,720	24'1	67,282	31'0	62,514	34'3	Roxburgh.
7,022	30'2	11,014	38'9	13,204	43'7	Selkirk.
405,765	15'2	510,850	18'8	518,530	19'2	Total Division VI.
Argyll.						
80,154	49'9	74,137	55'4	80,206	58'8	Ayr.
142,680	44'9	138,141	40'1	158,634	48'4	Bute.
9,996	39'2	8,466	32'9	9,800	37'7	Caithness.
25,804	24'2	26,283	24'1	28,9'8	25'6	Dumharton.
18,054	36'8	23,977	46'2	21,224	41'2	Dumfries.
88,982	37'3	106,872	41'1	112,748	43'3	Inverness.
40,311	31'3	60,490	40'3	62,034	41'7	Kirkcudbright
57,471	32'1	73,957	38'6	86,733	45'2	Lanark.
113,407	45'8	100,096	38'8	111,012	43'4	Orkney.
20,846	19'2	22,191	20'1	17,054	15'9	Renfrew.
49,487	52'4	47,417	50'3	47,553	52'0	Ross and Cromarty
18,827	14'1	25,458	18'5	29,296	20'8	Shetland.
41,809	71'5	44,414	73'4	43,459	72'9	Stirling.
48,101	42'1	46,475	39'2	62,372	44'1	Sutherland.
8,740	21'7	8,812	27'5	9,821	30'0	Wigtown.
25,975	17'7	28,465	18'6	40,770	26'4	
786,404	38'8	825,451	37'4	911,694	41'2	Total Division VII.

TABLE III.—NUMBER of CATTLE and SHEEP and the Number per 1,000
 BRAITAIN as returned on the 4th

COUNTIES, ETC.	Cattle.					
	1881.		1891.		1901.	
	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.
GREAT BRITAIN ..	5,911,642	104	6,852,821	121	6,763,894	119
ENGLAND	4,160,085	128	4,870,215	149	4,791,535	147
WALES	655,345	130	758,309	161	745,078	156
SCOTLAND	1,096,212	56	1,223,297	63	1,229,281	63
ENGLAND.						
Bedford	32,046	108	36,480	123	33,419	110
Huntingdon	27,020	118	33,619	146	28,794	123
Cambridge	44,175	84	56,423	107	55,147	100
Suffolk	63,837	97	73,231	77	78,276	83
Essex	79,264	75	87,423	83	86,087	88
Hertford	31,423	80	35,685	81	34,437	85
Middlesex	25,283	139	21,751	120	15,757	106
London	..	..	..	..	5,290	71
Total Division I.a ..	303,048	84	344,622	95	337,277	92
Norfolk	114,348	84	125,235	92	143,543	109
Lincoln	210,205	119	251,992	143	245,278	145
York, E.R.	82,247	102	89,147	111	86,083	115
Total Division I.b ..	406,800	104	466,374	119	475,504	128
Total Division I. ..	709,848	94	810,996	107	812,781	110
Kent	73,409	73	83,683	83	73,047	75
Surrey	46,485	94	48,817	101	41,349	90
Sussex	100,352	107	119,511	128	112,069	120
Berks	35,476	79	47,687	106	43,608	94
Hants	67,377	65	84,964	82	82,668	79
Total Division II.a ..	322,109	82	384,672	99	352,741	91
Nottingham	77,276	147	87,446	166	83,447	154
Leicester	123,581	242	145,171	284	139,135	261
Rutland	17,355	183	20,454	216	18,205	187
Northampton	111,863	178	131,447	209	121,190	190
Buckingham	68,094	146	75,118	161	73,390	153
Oxford	50,475	107	61,757	131	59,447	124
Warwick	92,338	163	109,050	193	106,828	184
Total Division II.b ..	541,022	166	630,443	193	601,702	180
Total Division II. ..	863,131	120	1,015,115	142	954,443	132
Salop	134,813	160	173,931	207	179,160	208
Worcester	61,273	130	69,178	146	68,355	142
Gloucester	111,190	138	128,343	159	123,441	153
Wilts	86,989	101	114,376	133	113,275	131
Monmouth	43,511	118	50,479	137	48,270	138
Hereford	77,229	145	94,054	176	92,522	172
Total Division III.a ..	515,005	133	630,361	162	625,023	160
Somerset	210,671	201	243,750	232	237,618	229
Dorset	76,602	122	92,094	147	86,675	139
Devon	235,409	141	274,229	166	278,297	167
Cornwall	166,742	192	197,694	227	205,033	236
Total Division III.b ..	687,424	164	807,767	192	807,623	192
Total Division III. ..	1,202,429	149	1,438,128	178	1,432,616	177
Northumberland ..	93,576	73	111,253	86	114,521	89
Durham	64,507	100	70,191	118	77,797	120
York, N.E.	156,578	115	179,472	132	172,809	127
York, W.R.	238,810	139	281,112	164	276,626	156
Total Division IV.a ..	553,471	110	648,028	129	641,753	126
Cumberland	131,735	136	145,381	150	150,384	155
Westmorland	61,397	123	68,810	137	70,226	139
Lancaster	222,988	185	250,819	208	240,484	201
Chester	149,296	212	178,882	253	179,218	274
Derby	133,481	203	151,645	231	143,712	221
Stafford	132,309	181	162,411	222	185,888	223
Total Division IV.b ..	831,208	174	957,948	201	949,912	201
Total Division IV. ..	1,384,677	141	1,605,976	164	1,591,665	162

Acres of the TOTAL AREA in each COUNTY and DIVISION of GREAT June in 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Sheep.						COUNTIES, ETC.
1881.		1891.		1901.		
Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	
24,581,053	433	28,732,558	506	26,377,200	465	GREAT BRITAIN.
15,382,856	472	17,874,722	548	15,548,057	478	ENGLAND.
2,466,945	522	3,233,936	685	3,427,734	718	WALES.
6,731,252	345	7,623,900	392	7,401,409	380	SCOTLAND.
139,717	473	123,115	434	104,407	345	ENGLAND.
135,824	692	119,120	619	85,393	365	Bedford
268,094	611	254,451	485	202,307	366	Huntingdon.
419,947	442	457,079	481	428,456	452	Cambridge.
329,360	312	332,886	315	265,096	271	Suffolk.
142,218	364	157,188	402	106,952	264	Essex.
27,659	153	30,909	170	18,088	122	Hertford.
..	..	..	..	4,038	54	Middlesex.
1,462,819	403	1,478,767	408	1,214,737	333	London.
579,691	427	608,081	448	552,142	420	Total Division I.a.
1,336,147	766	1,318,227	746	1,117,899	659	Norfolk.
467,884	569	494,478	614	467,364	620	Lincoln.
2,373,722	604	2,420,788	616	2,137,405	568	York, E.R.
3,836,541	508	3,900,543	516	3,352,142	452	Total Division I.b.
952,311	948	986,166	981	856,430	877	Total Division I.
75,649	157	85,333	177	67,452	146	Kent.
506,883	543	511,728	548	413,929	444	Surrey.
241,352	536	241,219	536	170,819	369	Sussex.
460,264	475	462,908	439	360,710	343	Berks.
2,266,454	580	2,277,354	583	1,869,140	481	Hants.
216,563	412	245,318	466	198,934	368	Total Division II.a.
263,383	515	361,579	707	306,424	575	Nottingham.
80,252	846	89,281	941	80,834	831	Leicester.
404,654	842	463,187	735	386,400	605	Rutland.
176,746	378	232,993	499	191,700	400	Northampton.
261,326	535	281,497	699	231,650	482	Buckingham.
207,698	367	329,870	582	262,506	453	Oxford.
1,600,622	490	2,003,525	613	1,658,448	495	Warwick.
3,867,078	639	4,280,879	597	3,527,589	483	Total Division II.b.
330,042	392	514,474	612	489,768	545	Total Division II.
138,382	293	198,672	421	163,801	341	Salop.
327,940	407	403,909	502	360,169	447	Worcester.
603,343	702	630,810	734	486,023	562	Gloucester.
117,402	319	226,294	614	227,932	652	Wilts.
219,836	413	349,348	656	331,875	616	Monmouth.
1,737,045	448	2,323,505	599	2,039,568	523	Hereford.
494,150	471	640,119	610	500,569	482	Total Division III.a.
428,900	684	438,567	699	351,625	562	Somerset.
745,030	450	976,573	590	815,694	488	Dorset.
414,612	477	469,772	540	394,301	454	Devon.
2,062,692	496	2,525,031	601	2,062,189	491	Cornwall.
3,819,737	473	4,848,536	600	4,101,757	508	Total Division III.b.
884,353	685	1,045,291	810	1,067,379	828	Total Division III
100,200	294	259,327	400	251,896	388	Northumberland.
626,051	460	770,009	565	738,094	542	Durham.
591,429	345	753,288	439	694,954	392	York, N.R.
2,282,033	457	2,827,915	564	2,752,323	542	York, W.R.
494,082	499	806,324	825	609,665	627	Total Division IV.a.
320,316	639	387,299	773	372,248	737	Cumberland.
284,317	235	367,352	304	335,392	280	Westmorland.
72,811	103	132,472	188	102,402	156	Lancaster.
191,243	291	221,680	338	166,265	256	Chester.
214,690	293	301,722	412	228,275	306	Derby.
1,567,469	328	2,016,849	423	1,814,247	384	Stafford.
3,859,502	394	4,844,784	495	4,586,670	468	Total Division IV.b.
						Total Division IV.

(Continued on page 124.)

TABLE III.—*continued*.—NUMBER OF CATTLE and SHEEP and the Number GREAT BRITAIN as returned on the

COUNTIES, ETC.	Cattle.					
	1881.		1891.		1901.	
	Number	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.
WALES.						
Anglesey	44,918	232	51,298	265	55,711	315
Brecon	35,022	76	41,682	91	41,379	88
Cardigan	61,452	139	70,370	159	70,428	159
Cardmarthen	106,669	176	124,068	205	121,536	207
Carmarvon	51,359	136	68,127	171	56,120	153
Denbigh	57,344	146	68,754	178	68,551	161
Flint	28,496	168	35,372	209	37,053	227
Glamorgan	52,934	97	60,674	111	56,259	106
Merioneth	39,395	102	40,691	106	38,354	91
Montgomery	62,540	138	72,449	149	72,832	143
Pembroke	36,519	220	95,375	242	91,672	233
Radnor	28,897	104	34,081	123	33,083	110
Total Division V.	655,345	139	759,309	161	743,078	156
SCOTLAND.						
Aberdeen	157,477	125	174,048	138	180,927	143
Banff	41,952	96	46,920	114	44,861	111
Berwick	14,042	47	17,744	60	16,905	58
Clackmannan	3,496	110	4,053	129	3,686	105
Elgin or Moray ..	2,241	71	21,987	71	22,671	73
Fife	39,076	119	47,681	151	51,352	158
Forfar	45,805	80	51,861	92	55,772	99
Haddington	9,062	51	8,196	47	9,890	58
Kincardine	25,013	101	26,990	109	26,497	108
Kinross	5,555	112	8,072	122	7,162	128
Linlithgow	10,078	124	12,637	164	12,366	160
Midlothian	18,250	78	22,460	97	19,865	85
Nairn	6,059	44	6,518	52	6,247	60
Peebles	5,837	26	7,003	31	7,304	32
Perth	78,634	48	80,727	49	75,900	46
Roxburgh	16,488	38	18,676	44	17,859	42
Selkirk	2,656	16	3,555	21	3,084	18
Total Division VI.	501,711	75	557,128	85	562,347	86
Argyll	60,442	29	62,793	30	60,645	30
Ayr	88,332	120	103,400	141	101,369	139
Bute	7,438	52	9,667	69	9,512	68
Caithness	20,023	44	22,009	49	22,521	50
Dumbarton	12,833	74	15,463	92	14,645	87
Dumfries	52,078	74	61,768	90	63,974	93
Inverness	52,567	19	50,272	19	51,483	18
Kirkcudbright ..	40,737	67	51,320	88	50,361	86
Lanark	64,276	113	76,393	134	75,121	135
Orkney	26,103	*	26,747	*	28,728	115
Renfrew	25,049	154	28,728	179	26,997	173
Ross and Cromarty	43,131	21	43,827	21	44,367	22
Shetland	19,117	*	18,884	*	19,050	53
Stirling	28,897	97	33,162	112	34,389	115
Sutherland	12,875	11	12,395	9	12,210	9
Wigtown	40,603	124	49,432	158	51,382	163
Total Division VII.	594,501	46	660,169	52	666,934	52

* The Total Areas of Orkney and Shetland

per 1,000 Acres of the TOTAL AREA in each COUNTY and DIVISION of 4th June in 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Sheep.						COUNTIES, ETC.
1881.		1891.		1901.		
Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	Number.	No. per 1,000 Acres of Total Area.	
WALES.						
38,146	197	76,398	395	83,849	475	Anglesey.
329,628	673	464,855	1,010	488,195	1,040	Brecon.
180,918	408	232,663	525	272,404	615	Cardigan.
176,503	291	255,048	421	274,355	467	Carmarthen.
198,261	537	255,683	692	269,589	728	Carnarvon.
211,637	617	331,819	846	342,314	803	Denbigh.
65,368	327	81,445	481	84,348	517	Flint.
253,555	463	307,398	562	330,816	638	Glamorgan.
394,370	1,024	416,607	1,081	430,356	1,020	Merioneth.
294,221	614	399,239	822	435,011	853	Montgomery.
85,738	218	128,786	327	138,429	352	Pembroke.
214,549	776	283,995	1,027	281,168	934	Radnor.
2,466,945	522	3,233,936	685	3,427,734	718	Total Division V.
SCOTLAND.						
136,692	108	237,894	189	226,630	179	Aberdeen.
60,733	116	84,112	204	64,247	158	Banff.
263,961	888	308,379	1,041	325,324	1,107	Berwick.
9,537	239	11,125	354	12,390	352	Clackmannan.
46,587	143	69,330	225	67,312	218	Elgin or Moray.
69,275	211	118,301	374	116,029	354	Fife.
119,386	210	164,841	293	161,806	286	Forfar.
111,929	625	133,705	770	127,047	741	Haddington.
24,966	101	47,365	192	44,600	182	Kincardine.
26,530	533	36,316	729	35,788	641	Kinross.
17,605	217	35,932	465	23,782	308	Linlithgow.
154,966	660	188,547	811	186,759	785	Midlothian.
15,980	116	20,395	162	21,284	204	Nairn.
189,442	831	197,091	865	202,018	905	Peebles.
675,081	406	769,556	465	723,256	443	Perth.
468,075	1,062	512,794	1,197	539,488	1,289	Roxburgh.
159,036	955	163,946	985	183,796	1,065	Selkirk.
2,541,781	380	3,099,649	472	3,059,604	467	Total Division VI.
999,732	480	1,053,652	505	926,143	457	Argyll.
344,779	469	369,190	506	381,885	522	Ayr.
40,139	279	52,056	371	44,908	320	Bute.
88,372	194	127,211	285	131,196	294	Caithness.
69,447	402	78,029	462	70,288	411	Dumbarton.
463,751	664	530,254	774	579,896	840	Dumfries.
686,307	252	675,154	249	596,263	214	Inverness.
382,289	594	405,265	695	406,880	699	Kirkcudbright.
208,632	367	246,542	433	242,306	427	Lanark.
29,064	*	39,511	*	35,327	142	Orkney.
31,237	192	39,529	246	39,813	255	Renfrew.
345,578	171	329,336	161	310,745	152	Ross and Cromarty.
72,156	*	101,629	*	115,311	318	Shetland.
109,233	368	121,787	423	124,178	418	Stirling.
214,534	178	216,169	160	206,746	163	Sutherland.
119,221	364	132,917	424	130,920	416	Wigtown.
4,189,471	327	4,524,251	351	4,341,805	536	Total Division VII.

were not shown separately at these dates.

TABLE IV.—NUMBER of AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS in each DIVISION
DECREASE (—)

(I).—NUMBER of HOLDINGS above 1 acre and not exceeding 5 acres.

Divisions.	1885.*	1895.	1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1905 as compared with 1885.
	No.	No.	No.	No.
GREAT BRITAIN	133,736	117,963	110,259	- 7,709
Division No. I. <i>a.</i> Eastern	11,267	9,347	8,509	838
<i>b.</i> North Eastern	13,568	10,842	10,108	- 734
Total	24,835	20,189	18,617	- 1,572
Division No. II. <i>a.</i> South Eastern	9,988	8,954	8,018	+ 04
<i>b.</i> East Midland	10,115	8,646	7,952	- 694
Total	20,103	17,600	16,970	- 630
Division No. III. <i>a.</i> West Midland	14,872	13,339	12,379	- 860
<i>b.</i> South Western	13,907	10,973	10,539	- 434
Total	28,779	24,212	22,918	- 1,264
Division No. IV. <i>a.</i> Northern	13,076	10,937	10,034	- 903
<i>b.</i> North Western	16,436	14,117	12,693	- 1,424
Total	29,512	25,054	22,727	- 2,337
Division No. V. Wales	11,044	10,763	10,342	- 421
Division No. VI. East Scotland	6,918	8,143	5,454	- 869
Division No. VII. West Scotland	14,545	14,007	13,231	- 776

(II).—NUMBER of HOLDINGS above 5 acres and not exceeding 50 acres.

Divisions.	1885.	1895.	1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1905 as compared with 1885.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in 1905 as compared with 1895.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
GREAT BRITAIN	232,955	235,481	232,966	+ 11	- 2,515
Division No. I. <i>a.</i>	14,218	14,360	13,914	304	476
<i>b.</i>	19,625	19,367	18,742	883	625
Total	33,843	33,757	32,656	- 1,187	- 1,101
Division No. II. <i>a.</i>	14,882	15,869	16,810	+ 1,928	+ 941
<i>b.</i>	16,948	17,014	16,430	- 516	- 584
Total	31,830	32,883	33,240	+ 1,410	+ 357
Division No. III. <i>a.</i>	19,051	20,089	20,141	+ 1,090	+ 52
<i>b.</i>	21,659	21,569	21,148	- 511	- 441
Total	40,710	41,678	41,289	+ 579	389
Division No. IV. <i>a.</i>	27,359	26,674	25,394	- 1,965	- 1,280
<i>b.</i>	36,689	35,599	34,043	- 2,646	- 1,556
Total	64,048	62,273	59,437	- 4,611	- 2,836
Division No. V.	29,715	30,969	31,871	+ 1,956	+ 702
Division No. VI.	13,729	13,860	13,549	- 181	- 312
Division No. VII.	10,080	20,061	21,125	+ 2,045	+ 1,064

* In 1885 holdings of 1 acre exactly were included. In 1895 as the result of a special enquiry

of GREAT BRITAIN in 1885, 1895 and 1905, with the INCREASE (+) or in 1905.

(III.)—NUMBER of HOLDINGS above 50 acres and not exceeding 300 acres.

Divisions.	1885.	1895.	1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1885.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1895.
GREAT BRITAIN	No. 144,288	No. 147,870	No. 150,561	No. + 6,273	No. + 2,691
Division No. I.a	10,932	11,134	11,322	+ 390	+ 188
b	10,418	10,795	11,249	+ 831	+ 454
Total	21,350	21,929	22,571	+ 1,221	+ 642
Division No. II.a	9,947	10,179	10,478	+ 531	+ 299
b	11,602	11,972	12,247	+ 645	+ 275
Total	21,549	22,151	22,725	+ 1,176	+ 574
Division No. III.a	12,302	12,627	13,069	+ 767	+ 442
b	15,610	16,036	16,548	+ 938	+ 512
Total	27,912	28,663	29,617	+ 1,705	+ 954
Division No. IV.a	14,516	14,941	15,165	+ 629	+ 224
b	18,728	19,271	19,420	+ 694	+ 149
Total	33,242	34,212	34,585	+ 1,323	+ 373
Division No. V.	17,888	18,113	18,008	+ 120	- 105
Division No. VI.	11,972	12,275	12,468	+ 496	+ 193
Division No. VII.	10,355	10,537	10,537	+ 232	+ 60

(IV.)—NUMBER of HOLDINGS above 300 acres.

Divisions.	1885.	1895.	1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1885.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with 1895.
GREAT BRITAIN	No. 19,384	No. 18,787	No. 17,918	No. - 1,448	No. - 869
Division No. I.a	2,536	2,488	2,338	- 198	- 150
b	2,860	2,820	2,720	- 140	- 100
Total	5,396	5,308	5,058	- 338	- 250
Division No. II.a	2,296	2,124	1,973	- 323	- 151
b	2,085	1,972	1,938	- 147	- 34
Total	4,381	4,096	3,911	- 470	- 185
Division No. III.a	2,269	2,202	2,056	- 213	- 146
b	1,494	1,448	1,358	- 136	- 90
Total	3,763	3,650	3,414	- 349	- 236
Division No. IV.a	1,712	1,673	1,616	- 96	- 57
b	896	851	793	- 103	- 58
Total	2,608	2,524	2,409	- 199	- 115
Division No. V.	460	443	408	- 52	- 35
Division No. VI.	1,790	1,744	1,725	- 65	- 19
Division No. VII.	968	1,012	993	+ 27	- 29

it was found that the number of holdings of exactly 1 acre in Great Britain was 18,709,

TABLE V.—AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS above 1 acre but not exceeding GREAT BRITAIN in 1895 and 1905, expressed as percentages

Counties in order of percentage of 1-50 acres in 1905.	1895.			1905.		
	1-5 acres.	5-50 acres.	1-50 acres.	1-5 acres.	5-50 acres.	1-50 acres.
GREAT BRITAIN ...	% 22.7	% 45.3	% 68.0	% 21.6	% 45.5	% 67.1
ENGLAND ...	22.9	44.9	67.8	21.8	44.8	66.6
WALES ...	17.8	51.4	69.2	17.1	52.4	69.5
SCOTLAND ...	25.3	42.6	67.9	23.6	43.8	67.4
ENGLAND.						
Yorks, W.R. ...	21.0	56.1	77.1	20.3	55.6	75.9
Middlesex ...	29.4	47.8	77.2	27.4	47.5	74.9
Derby ...	21.8	54.0	75.8	21.1	53.5	74.6
Worcester ...	33.6	40.9	74.5	32.4	42.2	74.6
Lancaster ...	15.4	59.3	74.7	15.1	58.6	73.7
Stafford ...	24.9	49.6	74.5	22.7	50.0	72.7
Cornwall ...	24.0	49.7	73.7	21.8	50.3	72.1
Chester ...	27.2	46.4	73.6	25.3	46.4	71.7
Hants ...	29.1	41.5	70.6	29.0	42.5	71.5
Surrey ...	26.1	45.5	71.6	25.6	45.3	70.9
Lincoln ...	24.3	48.1	72.4	22.8	47.5	70.3
Bedford ...	30.3	41.1	71.4	28.5	41.5	70.0
Cambridge ...	27.2	45.5	72.7	24.2	45.7	69.9
Salop ...	26.5	43.6	70.1	24.8	44.5	69.3
Monmouth ...	20.1	49.1	69.2	19.4	49.0	68.4
Gloucester ...	31.0	39.0	70.0	28.9	39.3	68.2
Nottingham ...	22.4	48.1	70.5	20.9	46.6	67.5
Norfolk ...	25.9	41.6	67.5	25.1	41.6	66.7
Somerset ...	25.3	43.0	68.3	23.9	42.6	66.5
Leicester ...	18.8	48.1	66.9	19.4	46.5	65.9
Kent ...	20.6	44.5	65.1	20.0	45.7	65.7
Warwick ...	23.8	42.8	66.6	22.6	43.1	65.7
Sussex ...	21.6	41.9	63.5	20.3	44.5	64.8
Berks ...	25.2	39.1	64.3	25.4	39.0	64.4
Huntingdon ...	23.0	42.6	65.6	21.7	42.1	63.8
Hereford ...	23.2	41.8	65.0	21.6	42.1	63.7
Durham ...	17.8	45.4	63.2	17.7	45.2	62.9
Wilts ...	25.9	38.1	64.0	24.6	38.2	62.8
Dorset ...	22.9	40.6	63.5	24.4	38.1	62.5
Hertford ...	27.6	33.6	61.2	27.6	34.2	61.8
Buckingham ...	24.1	36.0	60.1	22.9	38.5	61.4
Yorks, N.R. ...	21.4	41.3	62.7	19.4	41.1	60.5
" E.R. ...	24.1	36.5	60.6	23.3	36.7	60.0
Oxford ...	22.9	37.0	59.9	21.3	36.9	58.2
Northampton ...	20.6	40.0	60.6	18.1	39.7	57.8
Essex ...	21.2	34.4	55.6	21.3	35.4	56.7
Rutland ...	17.6	45.3	62.9	13.7	43.0	56.7
Devon ...	16.9	38.5	55.4	17.6	38.0	55.6
Suffolk ...	22.1	33.3	55.4	20.5	33.3	53.8
Westmorland ...	12.9	42.7	55.6	11.1	42.5	53.6
Northumberland ...	16.1	38.0	54.1	15.3	37.0	52.3
Cumberland ...	14.4	37.5	51.9	13.4	38.7	52.1

5 acres, and above 5 but not exceeding 50 acres in each COUNTY of of the TOTAL NUMBER of HOLDINGS in the COUNTY.

Counties in order of percentage of 1-50 acres in 1905.	1895.			1905.		
	1-5 acres.	5-50 acres.	1-50 acres.	1-5 acres.	5-50 acres.	1-50 acres.
WALES.						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Carnarvon	27·2	56·2	83·4	24·9	60·4	85·3
Anglesey	21·1	57·6	78·7	21·4	58·1	79·5
Flint	28·7	50·8	79·5	26·4	52·1	78·5
Cardigan	17·5	52·8	70·3	18·8	53·2	72·0
Glamorgan	18·7	50·1	68·8	17·7	51·3	69·0
Denbigh	17·1	51·7	68·8	16·6	52·0	68·6
Pembroke	15·3	53·5	68·8	13·9	54·6	68·5
Montgomery	18·1	48·8	66·9	16·5	49·8	66·3
Merioneth	12·8	53·7	66·5	11·3	54·3	65·6
Car-marthen	11·2	50·8	62·0	11·9	51·5	63·4
Brecon	12·9	40·8	53·7	12·3	40·5	52·8
Radnor	13·1	40·3	53·4	12·4	40·0	52·4
SCOTLAND.						
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Shetland	20·0	77·4	97·4	19·7	77·7	97·4
Sutherland	64·9	31·2	96·1	60·3	36·0	96·3
Inverness	40·0	51·6	91·6	40·0	52·5	92·5
Ross	59·8	32·6	92·4	51·7	40·4	92·1
Orkney	14·7	70·9	85·6	14·1	71·7	85·8
Caithness	24·8	59·3	84·1	22·3	61·3	83·6
Argyll	32·6	47·1	79·7	32·0	46·2	78·2
Bute	17·0	61·8	78·8	16·7	59·6	76·3
Banff	20·8	51·7	72·5	20·1	50·3	70·4
Elgin	23·4	44·0	67·4	22·3	43·6	65·9
Aberdeen	14·4	49·2	63·6	13·1	49·0	62·1
Selkirk	17·7	38·5	56·2	18·1	38·6	56·7
Roxburgh	21·8	33·4	55·2	14·9	41·7	56·6
Perth	26·9	29·8	56·7	23·0	31·6	54·6
Dumfries	21·8	30·4	52·2	24·2	29·8	54·0
Kincardine	13·4	41·3	54·7	12·0	41·2	53·2
Nairn	10·2	44·3	54·5	10·5	42·3	52·8
Dumbarton	15·9	35·1	51·0	17·4	33·7	51·1
Forfar	15·7	35·8	51·5	15·9	35·0	50·9
Clackmannan	21·3	34·5	55·8	20·5	30·3	50·8
Fife	20·9	30·6	51·5	19·1	29·5	48·6
Stirling	14·9	33·0	47·9	13·2	35·2	48·4
Midlothian	15·9	32·6	48·5	15·9	30·6	46·5
Wigtown	13·2	30·8	44·0	15·7	28·7	44·4
Kirkcudbright	14·7	29·8	44·5	13·0	31·2	44·2
Lanark	12·0	33·5	45·5	10·0	33·5	43·5
Haddington	14·7	24·5	39·2	16·0	24·2	40·2
Kinross	13·6	23·5	37·1	15·0	24·7	39·7
Renfrew	12·1	27·9	40·0	10·7	29·0	39·7
Peebles	8·0	27·0	35·0	9·8	29·2	39·0
Berwick	15·8	23·4	39·2	12·9	25·6	38·5
Ayr	9·9	27·1	37·0	9·2	28·3	37·5
Linlithgow	12·9	23·9	36·8	9·5	23·6	33·1

APPENDIX B.

LIST OF AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENTS WHO HAVE
FURNISHED REPLIES TO THE BOARD'S INQUIRIES.

Division Ia.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
BEDFORDSHIRE.	
Mr. G. Humphreys... ..	Brogboro Park, Ridgmount, Aspley Guise, S.O.
Mr. A. Inskip	Clifton Bury, Biggleswade.
HUNTINGDONSHIRE.	
Mr. H. L. Blunt	Orton Longueville, Peterboro'.
Mr. H. Cranfield	Buckden, Hunts.
Mr. A. Fuller	Ramsey, Hunts.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.	
Mr. R. B. Jenyns	Bottisham Hall, Cambridge.
Mr. R. Stephenson	Burwell, Cambs.
ISLE OF ELY.	
Mr. J. L. Luddington	Audley House, Littleport, Ely.
Mr. W. W. West	Needham Hall, Wisbech.
SUFFOLK.	
Mr. R. L. Everett	Rushmere, Ipswich.
Mr. G. Fiske	Bramford, Ipswich.
Mr. A. Harwood	Ackworth House, E. Bergholt, Colchester.
Mr. O. D. Johnson	Barrow, Bury St. Edmunds.
Mr. L. J. Peto	Blundeston House, Lowestoft,

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
ESSEX.	
Mr. A. B. Croxon ...	The Limes, Burnham-on-Crouch, S.O.
Mr. W. C. Emson ...	Strethall Hall, Saffron Walden.
Mr. W. W. Glenny...	Cecil House, Barking.
Mr. T. W. Goodchild ...	Hill House, Gt. Yeldham, Castle Hedingham, S.O.
Mr. G. McMillan ...	Bearman's Farm, Ingatestone, S.O.
Mr. H. Rankin ...	Broomhills, Rochford, S.O.
HERTFORDSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Milne ...	Estate Office, Knebworth, Stevenage.
Mr. E. Pigg ...	The Hall, Chipping, Buntingford, S.O.
Mr. W. A. Prout ...	Sawbridgeworth.
Mr. A. Rae ...	Brook House, Turnford, Broxbourne, S.O.
MIDDLESEX AND LONDON.	
Mr. W. G. Lobjoit ...	Heston Farm, Hounslow.
Mr. C. De Salis ...	Dawley Court, Uxbridge.

Division Ib.

NORFOLK.	
Mr. J. B. Ellis ...	West Barsham, Walsingham, S.O.
Mr. B. B. Sapwell ...	Sankence, Aylsham, S.O.
Mr. H. Tallent ...	West Acre, Swaffham.
Mr. Geo. Symonds ...	Thelveton, Scole, S.O.
LINCOLNSHIRE.—HOLLAND.	
Mr. F. Martin ...	Hubbert's Bridge, Boston.
Mr. W. H. West ...	Somerset House, Holbeach Marsh.
LINCOLNSHIRE.—KESTEVEN.	
Mr. W. H. Morton...	Washingboro' Manor, Lincoln.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
LINCOLNSHIRE.—LINDSEY.	
Mr. G. A. Bellwood ...	Bishop Norton, Kirton Lindsey, S.O.
Mr. W. C. Brown ...	Appleby <i>via</i> Doncaster.
Maj. G. A. Browne ...	Maidenwell House, Louth.
Mr. Wm. Frankish...	Culme, St. Catherine's, Lincoln.
Mr. C. W. Tindall ...	Wainfleet, S.O.
YORKSHIRE.—EAST RIDING	
Mr. H. Hawking ...	Raskelfe, Easingwold, Yorks.
Mr. H. Pearson ...	Hutton Buscel, West Ayton, S.O.

Division IIa.

KENT.	
Mr. E. Day ...	The Thorn, Marden, S.O.
Mr. Arthur Finn ...	Westbroke House, Lydd, S.O.
Mr. Albert Love ...	Capel Hill Farm, Eastchurch, Sheerness.
Mr. C. Whitehead ...	Barming House, Maidstone.
SURREY.	
Mr. S. R. Whitley ...	Little Westlands, Lingfield, S.O.
SUSSEX.	
Mr. J. E. Brand ...	The Grove, Hooe, Battle, S.O.
Mr. A. Pullen-Burry ...	The Rectory House, Sompting, Worthing.
Mr. C. W. Chaudler ...	Clarence House, Hayward's Heath.
Mr. H. W. Drewitt...	Colworth Manor, near Chichester.
Mr. J. B. Grant ...	New Park, Nuthurst, Horsham.
Mr. W. A. Haviland ...	Brightling Place, Brightling, S.O.
Mr. W. F. Ingram ...	2, St. Andrews Place, Lewes.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
BERKSHIRE.	
Mr. Geo. Adams	Wadley House, Faringdon.
Mr. T. Latham	Dorchester, Oxon.
Mr. J. Lousley	Hampstead Norris, Newbury.
HAMPSHIRE.	
Mr. G. Judd	Cocnm, Barton Stacey, S.O.
Mr. W. F. Perkins	Bridge House, Boldre, near Lymington.

Division IIb.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.	
Mr. W. Beard	Bridge House, Worksop.
Mr. H. Smith, Junr. ...	The Cottage, Cropwell Butler, Nottingham.
Mr. J. Walker	Market Place, Retford.
LEICESTERSHIRE.	
Mr. J. C. Bassett	Castle View, Leicester.
Mr. R. C. Cooper	Waltham, Melton Mowbray.
Mr. J. Longwill	Pickwell, near Oakham.
RUTLAND.	
Mr. N. W. Wortley ...	Ridlington, Uppingham.
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.	
Mr. T. A. Dickson	Sywell Hall, Northampton.
Mr. J. Rooke	Weldon Grange, Corby, Kettering.
SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH.	
Mr. F. W. Griffin	Boro Fen, Peterboro'.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.	
Mr. W. H. Denchfield ...	Burston House, Aston Abbots, Aylesbury.
Mr. Jno. Treadwell ...	Upper Winchendon, Aylesbury.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
OXFORDSHIRE.	
Mr. W. H. Ashhurst ...	Waterstock, Wheatley, Oxford.
Mr. E. Greaves ...	Upper Heyford, Banbury.
Mr. J. P. King ...	Northstoke, near Wallingford.
Mr. J. B. Kingscote ...	Stratton Audley, Bicester.
WARWICKSHIRE.	
Mr. S. P. Graves ...	Hill House, Southam, Rugby.
Mr. D. Lane... ..	Charlecote, near Warwick.
Mr. J. W. Lea ...	Thelsford, Warwick.
Mr. W. H. Sale ...	Arden Hill, Atherstone.
Mr. J. Parker-Toone ...	High Cross, Rugby.

Division IIIa.

SHROPSHIRE.	
Mr. W. H. Lander ...	Tibberton, Newport, Shropshire.
Mr. J. Lee ...	The Crimps, Ellesmere.
Mr. E. H. Morris ...	Chirbury, S.O.
Mr. B. Stanier ...	Peplow Hall, Market Drayton.
Mr. T. H. Thursfield ...	The Grange, Much Wenlock, S.O.
WORCESTERSHIRE.	
Mr. E. V. Wheeler ...	Newnham Court, Tenbury.
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.	
Mr. T. R. Hulbert ...	Dumbleton, Evesham.
Mr. W. Priday ...	Brockworth Court, Gloucester.
Mr. J. M. White ...	Highfield, Chesterton, Cirencester.
WILTSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Carpenter ...	The Manor House, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury.
Mr. J. G. Perrett ...	Coulston, Westbury.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
WILTSHIRE—continued.	
Mr. E. P. Squarey	The Moot, Downton, Salisbury.
Mr. J. B. Stevens	The Manor, Ogbourne St. George, Marlborough.
Mr. W. Stratton	Kingston Deverill, Bath.
Mr. F. Smith	"The Sands," Calne.
MONMOUTHSHIRE.	
Mr. R. Stratton	The Duffryn, near Newport, Mon.
Mr. H. Williams	Red House, Llansantffraed, Abergavenny.
Mr. L. C. Wrigley	Trelleck Grange, Chepstow.
HEREFORDSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Riley	Putley Court, Ledbury.
Mr. A. P. Turner	The Leen, Pembridge, S.O.
Mr. J. H. Wootton	Byford, Hereford.
Division IIIb.	
SOMERSET.	
Mr. A. Berry	Cannington, Bridgwater.
Mr. G. Gibbons	Tunley Farm, Bath.
Mr. S. Kidner	Bickley, Milverton, S.O.
Mr. R. M. P. Parsons	Misterton, Crewkerne.
DORSET.	
Mr. E. W. F. Castleman	Chettle, Blandford.
Mr. W. Cross	Manor Farm, Minterne Cerne, Dorchester.
Mr. H. Duke	Dorchester.
Mr. J. T. Homer	Hemsworth, Wimborne.
DEVONSHIRE.	
Mr. E. F. Chamier	Rolle Estate Office, Exmouth.
Mr. J. N. Franklin... ..	Greenend, Plymtree, Cullompton.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
<i>DEVONSHIRE—continued.</i>	
Mr. G. Norman	Swimbridge, Barnstaple
Mr. J. Oag	Hillside, Okehampton.
<i>CORNWALL.</i>	
Mr. M. P. Menhinick ...	Burniere, Wadebridge, S.O.
Mr. H. B. Paull	Tehidy Office, Camborne.
Mr. J. Rawling	Oldwit, Launceston.
Mr. J. Richards	Tower Farm, St. Buryan, S.O.
Mr. J. Thomas	Tregays, Lostwithiel.

Division IVa.

<i>NORTHUMBERLAND.</i>	
Mr. W. J. Bolam	Berwick-on Tweed.
Mr. F. O. Chrisp	Prendwick, Whittingham, S.O.
Mr. R. C. Hedley	Corbridge-on-Tyne, S.O.
Mr. C. Marshall	Broomhaugh, Riding Mill-on-Tyne, S.O.
Mr. A. F. Nichol	Bradford, Belford.
Mr. J. Robson	Newton, Bellingham, S.O.
<i>DURHAM.</i>	
Mr. T. B. Bainbridge ...	North Field House, Wynyard, Stockton-on-Tees.
Mr. R. Brydon	The Dene, Seabam Harbour, Sunderland.
Mr. H. L. Fyfe	Raby Estates Office, Staindrop, Darlington.
Mr. P. B. Kent	Ingleside, Darlington.
Mr. W. A. Weightman ...	Hall Farm, Silksworth, Sunderland.
<i>YORKSHIRE.—NORTH RIDING.</i>	
Mr. T. F. King	Wynbury, Leyburn, S.O.
Mr. C. Robinson	Tollesby Farm, Marton, S.O.
Mr. H. W. Walton	Coalsgarth, Richmond (Yorks.).
Mr. J. Wood	Estate Office, Brandsby, Easingwold.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
YORKSHIRE.—WEST RIDING.	
Mr. F. W. Beadon	Ramsden Estate Offices, Huddersfield.
Mr. Wm. Kilby	Notton, Barnsley.
Colonel W. W. Maude	The Fleets, Rylstone, Skipton.
Mr. Jno. Thompson	East Rigton, Leeds.
Division IVb.	
CUMBERLAND.	
Mr. W. Dobson	Howgate, Brampton, Carlisle.
Mr. R. Shanks	Aigle Gill, Allonby, Maryport.
Mr. R. Tinniswood... ..	Rose Bank Farm, Dalston, Carlisle.
Mr. A. Watt	Muncaster Estate Office, Ravenglass, S.O.
WESTMORLAND.	
Mr. F. Punchard	Underley Estate Office, Kirkby Lonsdale.
Mr. J. Wakefield	Sedgewick, Kendal.
LANCASHIRE.	
Mr. P. Blundell	Ream Hills, Weeton, Preston.
Mr. J. J. Hornby	Knowsley, Prescot.
Mr. W. S. Nuttall	Old Hall Farm, Bolton.
Mr. S. T. Rosbotham	Stanley Farm, Bickerstaffe, Ormskirk.
Mr. J. Towers	Lawsons Farm, Nether Kellet, Carnforth.
CHESHIRE.	
Mr. Jos. Beecroft	Bankfields, Eastham, Birkenhead.
Mr. C. B. Davies	Eardswick Hall, Middlewich.
Mr. R. S. Ravenshaw	Tranmere Hall, Tranmere, Birkenhead.
Mr. J. Wright	27, King Edward Street, Macclesfield.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
DERBYSHIRE.	
Mr. R. Finney	Hemington, Derby.
Mr. A. P. Payne-Gallwey ...	Estate Office, Castle Hill, Bakewell.
Mr. R. Waite	Green Trees, Duffield, Derby.
STAFFORDSHIRE.	
Mr. E. Averill	Kings' Bromley, Lichfield.
Capt. W. S. B. Levett ...	Milford Hall, Stafford.
Mr. T. Carrington Smith ...	Admaston, Rugeley.
Mr. Thos. Wood	Croxden Abbey, Rocester, S.O.
Division V.	
ANGLESEY.	
Mr. T. N. Jones	Penrhos, Llangefni, S.O.
Mr. Griffith F. Roberts ...	Trefarthen, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, S.O.
BRECON.	
Mr. S. H. Cowper Coles ...	Estate Office, Penmyarth, Crickhowell.
Mr. Owen Price	Nantyrharn, Cray, S.O.
CARDIGANSHIRE.	
Mr. W. Edwards	University College of Wales, Aberystwith.
Mr. J. Jones	Cwmere Farm, Felinfach, S.O.
CARMARTHENSHIRE.	
Mr. D. W. Drummond ...	Cawdor Estate Office, Ferryside, S.O.
Mr. J. Rees	Dolgwm, Llanybyther, S.O.
Mr. D. Thomas	Dolfallt, Llandovery, S.O.
CARNARVONSHIRE.	
Mr. T. E. Griffith	Gallt-y-Beren, Pwllheli.
Mr. T. Roberts	Tanyfynwent, Aber, Bangor.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
DENBIGHSHIRE.	
Mr. John Roberts	Plas Heaton Farm, Trefnant, S.O.
Mr. Gomer Roberts ..	Cefn Griolen, Llanelidan, Ruthin.
GLAMORGAN.	
Mr. R. Forrest	Windsor Estate Office, St. Fagans, Cardiff.
Mr. A. B. Paddison ...	Queen Street, Neath.
MERIONETHSHIRE.	
Mr. W. R. M. Wynne ...	Peniarth, Towyn, S.O.
MONTGOMERYSHIRE.	
Mr. W. F. Addie	Powis Castle Estate Office, Welshpool.
Mr. Geo. Macqueen ...	Tanyrallt, Buttington, Welshpool.
Mr. J. R. Pryse	Pantarain, Llangurig, Llanidloes, S.O.
PEMBROKESHIRE.	
Mr. T. Rule Owen	Land Agency Office, Haverfordwest.
Mr. W. Richards	Hasguard Hall, Little Haven, S.O.
Mr. J. C. Yorke	Trecwyn, Fishguard, S.O.
RADNORSHIRE.	
Mr. B. P. Lewis	Noyadd, Rhayader.

Division VI.

ABERDEENSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Ainslie	Pitfour Estates Office, Mintlaw, S.O.
Mr. J. Bruce	Collithie, Gartly, S.O.
Mr. Alex. Strachan...	Western Fowlis, Alford, Aberdeen.
BANFFSHIRE.	
Mr. G. Bruce	Tochineal Farm, Cullen, S.O.
Mr. W. Livingstone ...	Newton of Mountblairy, Turriff.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
BERWICKSHIRE.	
Dr. R. S. Gibb	Boon, Lauder, S.O.
Mr. J. A. Somervail	Broomdykes, Chirnside, S.O.
ELGINSHIRE OF MORAYSHIRE	
Mr. G. Muirhead	Gordon-Richmond Estates Office, Fochabers.
FIFE.	
Mr. J. Ballingall	Dunbog, Newburgh.
Mr. Jas. Millar	Waulkmill, Charlestown, Dunfermline.
Mr. E. E. Morrison	Bonnytown, Stravithie, S.O.
Mr. G. Prentice	Strathore, Thornton, S.O.
FORFARSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Duncan	Muirhouses, Kirriemuir.
Mr. D. Hume	Barrelwell, Brechin.
Mr. J. Kydd	Seryne, Carnoustie, S.O.
HADDINGTONSHIRE.	
Mr. J. W. Hope	East Barnes, Dunbar.
Mr. J. Shields	Longniddry, S.O.
KINCARDINESHIRE.	
Mr. W. Brown	Pitnamoon, Laurencekirk.
Mr. J. Hart	Mains of Cowie, Stonehaven.
Mr. G. G. Walker	Portlethen, near Aberdeen.
KINROSS-SHIRE.	
Mr. D. Tod	Gospetry, Milnathort, S.O.
LINLITHGOWSHIRE.	
Mr. A. Glendinning	Newmains, Kirkliston, S.O.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
MIDLOTHIAN.	
Mr. J. J. Davidson... ..	Saughton Mains, Corstorphine, S.O.
Mr. J. McHutchen-Dobbie...	Campend, Dalkeith.
Mr. P. Gemmell	11, Murrayfield Place, Edinburgh.
PEEBLESHIRE.	
Mr. G. W. Constable ...	Traquair Estate Office, Innerleithen, S.O.
Mr. G. Deans Ritchie ...	Chapelgill, Broughton, S.O.
PERTHSHIRE.	
Mr. A. Campbell	Boreland Farm, Fearnan, S.O.
Mr. J. Craig	Invergeldie, Comrie, S.O.
Mr. Andrew Hutcheson ...	Beechwood, Perth.
Mr. D. McDiarmid	Camusericht, Rannoch Stat., S.O.
ROXBURGHSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Caverhill	Jedneuk, Jedburgh.
Mr. C. J. Grieve	Bransholm Park, Hawick.
Mr. J. R. C. Smith	Mowhaugh, Yetholm, Kelso
SELKIRKSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Elliot	Meigle by Galashiels.
Mr. S. Linton	Oakwood, Selkirk.

Division VII.

ARGYLL.	
Mr. Matt. Andrew	Drimvore, Lochgilphead.
Mr. A. J. H. Campbell ...	Dunstaffnage, Connel, S.O.
Mr. J. A. Hunter	Machribeg, Campbeltown.
Mr. H. MacDiarmid	Island House, Tiree, Oban.
Mr. D. T. Martin	Dunlossit, Portaskaig, S.O.

Name of Correspondent.	Address.
AYRSHIRE.	
Mr. J. M. Hannah	Girvan Mains, Girvan.
Mr. A. Sloan	Greenhill, Crosshouse, Kilmarnock.
CAITHNESS.	
Mr. G. Davidson	Old Hall, Watten, S.O.
Mr. J. Miller	Scrabster, Thurso
DUMFRIESSHIRE.	
Rev. J. Gillespie, LL.D. ...	Mouswald Manse, Ruthwell, S.O.
Mr. J. Moffatt	Gateside, Sanquhar, S.O.
Mr. J. Waugh	Greenwood Hall, Moffat.
INVERNESS-SHIRE.	
Mr. J. T. Cameron	Gesto, Struan, Isle of Skye.
Mr. J. Cran	Kirkton, Bunchrew, Inverness.
Mr. G. Malcolm	Craigard, Invergarry, S.O.
Mr. T. Wilson	Luskintyre House, Harris.
KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Biggar	Chapelton, Dalbeattie.
Mr. J. McDowall	Girdstingwood, Kirkcudbright.
LANARKSHIRE.	
Mr. J. Gilchrist	Orbiston Mains, Bellshill, Glasgow.
Mr. J. D. Scott	Nether House, Lesmahagow S.O.
Mr. J. Speir	Newton Farm, Newton, Glasgow.
ORKNEY.	
Mr. W. MacLennan	Zetland Estates Office, Kirkwall.
Mr. W. G. T. Watt	Skaill House by Stromness, S.O.

Name of Correspondent.	. Address.
RENFREWSHIRE.	
Mr. H. M. B. Peile ...	Mansion House, Greenock.
Mr. J. Pollock, Junr. ...	Springside, Howwood, S.O.
ROSS AND CROMARTY.	
Mr. J. D. Fletcher ...	Rosehaugh House, Avoch, R.S.O.
Mr. O. H. Mackenzie ...	Inverewe, Poolewe, R.S.O.
Mr. N. Reid ...	Newkelso, Strathcarron, R.S.O.
SHETLAND.	
Mr. Jas. Mainland ...	Dalsetter, Lerwick.
Mr. G. Anderson ...	Hillswick, S.O.
STIRLINGSHIRE.	
Mr. Jno. Edmond ...	Gallamuir, Bannockburn, S.O.
Mr. J. Drysdale ...	Arngibbon, Port of Monteith, Port of Monteith Station, R.S.O.
Mr. W. T. Malcolm ...	Dunmore Home Farm, Larbert.
WIGTOWNSHIRE.	
Mr. H. McMaster ...	Blairbury, Port William, R.S.O.
Mr. W. H. Ralston ...	Dunragit Estate Office, Dunragit, R.S.O.

L O N D O N :
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1906.

Trade (Imports and Exports) of the United Kingdom with the Colonies and Foreign Countries; Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour at Home and Abroad; Customs Tariff; Food Supply, &c., viz. :—

[Cd. 3092.]	STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. 1891-1905.	Price 1s. 6d.
[Cd. 2679.]	Do. do. COLONIES. 1890-1904.	Price 1s. 9d.
[Cd. 2666.]	Do. do. FOREIGN COUNTRIES. Years 1893-1902-03.	Price 1s. 6d.
[Cd. 3166.]	Do. do. BRITISH INDIA. 1895-1896 to 1904-1905.	Price 1s. 3d.
[Cd. 2928.]	TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1905. Vol. I.	Price 7s. 8d.
[Cd. 3022.]	Do. do. do. Vol. II.	Price 4s. 2d.
[Cd. 3205.]	FOREIGN IMPORT DUTIES, 1906.	Price 2s. 10d.
[Cd. 3093.]	NAVIGATION AND SHIPPING STATEMENT. 1905.	Price 3s. 1d.
[Cd. 1761, 2337, 2669.]	BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS. Memoranda, Tables and Charts. Prepared by the Board of Trade. First and Second Series, and Index.	Price 7s.
[Cd. 2915.]	EAST INDIA. Trade of. Years 1900-01 to 1904-05.	Price 1s. 4d.
[Cd. 3107.]	STATISTICAL TABLES RELATING TO BRITISH COLONIES, POSSESSIONS, AND PROTECTORATES. Part XXIX. 1904.	Price 7s. 2d.
[Cd. 2856.]	STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, YEARS 1900-1904.	Price 10d.
[Cd. 3061.]	AGRICULTURAL RETURNS—GREAT BRITAIN. 1905.	Price 1s. 6d.
[Cd. 3195.]	COLONIAL IMPORT DUTIES. 1906.	Price 2s. 6d.
[Cd. 3172.]	WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR—Report on the Changes in; 1905.	Price 7d.
[Cd. 2857.]	RUSSIA. New Customs Tariff.	Price 9d.
[Cd. 2977.]	SOUTH AFRICA. Customs Union Convention, 1906.	Price 2½d.
[Cd. 3066.]	SPAIN. New Customs Tariff, 1st July, 1906.	Price 5½d.
[Cd. 3120.]	FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS. Third Report.	Price 1s. 6d.
[Cd. 3065.]	STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS. Report, 1905.	Price 8d.
[Cd. 3245.]	STANDARD TIME RATES OF WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AT 1 OCTOBER, 1906.	Price 7d.
[Cd. 3237.]	IMPORTS AND EXPORTS AT IRISH PORTS DURING 1904.	Price 5½d.

Military:—

ARMY SERVICE CORPS. Regimental Standing Orders, 1906.	Price 6d.
EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS. Part 2. Sec. III. Army Service Corps.	Price 3d.
INFANTRY. MOUNTED. TRAINING. 1906.	Price 6d.
MAP READING AND FIELD SKETCHING. Manual. 1906.	Price 1s. 3d.
RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR. Part I.	Price 1s. 6d.
Do. do. Case for Maps of the Complete Work.	Price 9d.

Hydrographical:—

EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO. Part II. Supplement, 1906.	Price 4d.
JAPAN, KOREA, AND ADJACENT SEAS. Sailing Directions, 1904. Supplement, 1906.	Price 5d.
NOVA SCOTIA AND BAY OF FUNDY. Sailing Directions, 1903. Supplement, 1906.	Price 6d.
SOUTH AMERICA PILOT. Part I. Supplement, 1906.	Price 7d.

Local Government Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE VILLAGE OF COGGESHALL, IN THE BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT, AND ALLEGED PREVALENCE THEREIN OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE; &c. No. 244.	Price 6d.
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOUTHWICK-ON-WEAR URBAN DISTRICT, AND RECENT PREVALENCE OF ZYMOTIC DISEASE. No. 245.	Price 5d.

Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, viz. :—

COLONIES, HANDBOOKS FOR. 8vo. Wrapper

No. 1. Canada.	2. New South Wales.	3. Victoria.	4. South Australia.	5. Queens-land.	6. Western Australia.	7. Tasmania.	8. New Zealand.	9. Cape Colony.	10. Natal.	11. Transvaal.	12. Orange River Colony.	Price 1d. each.
No. 13. Professional.	14. Emigration Statutes and General.	No. 15 (viz. Nos. 1 to 14 in cloth).										Price 3d. each.
												Price 2s.

INTENDING EMIGRANTS, INFORMATION FOR:—Argentine Republic, price 2d. East Africa Protectorate, 1906, price 6d. Ceylon, June 1904, price 1d. Federated Malay States, &c., 1905, price 6d. Newfoundland, 1906, price 1d. British Central Africa Protectorate, July 1905, price 6d. Uganda Protectorate, 1906, price 6d. West African Colonies, Dec. 1904, price 6d. West Indies, 1904, price 6d. SUMMARY OF CONSULAR REPORTS, NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, 1904-5. Price 2d.

Foreign Office:—

COMMERCIAL TREATIES. (Hertslet's.) A complete collection of Treaties, &c., between Great Britain and Foreign Powers so far as they relate to Commerce and Navigation, &c. By Sir E. Hertslet, K.C.B., &c., Vols. I. to XXIII.	Price 15s. each.
STATE PAPERS. British and Foreign. Vol. 93 (Index vol.); Vol. 94, 1900-1901; and Vol. 95, 1901-1902.	Price 10s. each.

Board of Trade Journal, of Tariff and Trade Notices and Miscellaneous Commercial Information. Published weekly. Price 1d.

Board of Trade Labour Gazette. Monthly. Price 1d.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

REPORT

ON THE

DECLINE IN THE AGRICULTURAL POPULATION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

1881—1906.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN AND SONS, LTD., FETTER LANE, E.C.,
and 32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.;
or OLIVER & BOYD, EDINBURGH;
or E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1906.

[Cd. 3273.] Price 8d.

